Spartana

Issue 1 September 2021

The '60s Counterculture
p. 16-19

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Letter from the Editor

Oliver "Ollie" the Cat
Beloved companion of the editor and avid murderer.

In most states, September is the month of academic beginnings. For us, it is academic acclimation. By this point in the year, most of Homestead's students and teachers have gotten into their respective "flows." The Spartana, too, is becoming adjusted to the new school year. There are only seven returning Spartana staff this year, as five of our alumni are now enjoying college life. In contrast, nine members joined. With these novice journalists, we hope to create energetic and honest articles, ranging from Mask Mandates to 70s fashion, from news to satire.

One exciting element of 2022's Spartana staff is our lightened censorship. Amid the political and social turmoil of last year, the Spartana was more restricted than in previous years. However, these limits have been lessened. As you have probably noticed in the Table of Contents, this issue features students' and staffers' opinions regarding masks. I find this discussion, or, more accurately, the existence of this discussion to be invigorating. While I have never been one to purposely talk about politics, the fact that we are able to engage in this discourse is of great importance. We should care about what is going on in the world. Unfortunately, high school journalism does not dive into these subjects, but dips its toes. So, I recommend reading the news.

But while you're here, enjoy the Spartana. From "fluff" pieces to objective investigative articles, you can find something to read here.

Thanks,

Claire Elliott

Interested in...

WEB DEVELOPMENT?

INVESTIGATIVE AND SPORTS JOURNALISM?

BUSINESS AND MARKETING?

PHOTOGRAPHY?

DIGITAL AND GRAPHIC DESIGN?

OPINION AND LIFESTYLE WRITING?

If any of these things interest you, there's a spot waiting on the Publications staff. Between Yearbook and Newspaper, there are opportunities to try all of these areas. Plus, the class counts as a fine arts credit towards your diploma. If you're ready to dive in or just want to learn more, send an email to lbrehm@sacs.k12.in.us.

The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser

To my dear brothers:

Chapter One: The Beginning

written and illustrated by
KATELYN STYBORSKI
designed by Thomas Hill

Once, in a time that was equally so far into the future and so far back in the past that our minds cannot comprehend it, there lived a young girl named Jolean. Jolean did not know how old she was or how long she had been alone. All she knew was that her favorite color was yellow and that she loved to draw.

In fact, Jolean drew so much that she never went anywhere without her sketchbook and a pencil.

One day, after she had just gotten comfortable on her hand-stitched (and slightly overstuffed,) beanbag, she realized she had lost her eraser. At first, Jolean shrugged it off, but after giving a character a particularly horrendous hairstyle, her hands itched with the need to correct it. She looked everywhere for her eraser, including in the creepily large ash pit behind her house. Still, she could not find it.

Jolean looked over at her pencil, which had been whittled down to just long enough to hold between her fingertips .

"Well," she thought, "I guess it's time to get some new art supplies!" Smiling wide, Jolean grabbed her wicker basket and skipped off to the store.

However, when she got there, it looked abandoned. She peeked in the windows, fogging up the glass with her breath. "Dark in there," she murmured, squinting. The place was completely empty. Even her favorite store attendant, Dimitri, seemed to be absent. A chill started to creep up her spine. Jolean whipped her head around, checking for any sign of life.

Silence.

She looked back towards the store. Something was different.

The girl stared into the darkness. She couldn't put her finger on it, but she new, deep down, something had changed.

"What...?" Jolean pressed her hands against the glass. "Hey-!" Jolean sped. There was a figure standing in the art aisle, its back to the girl.

ripping over her feet, Jolean scrambled back from the window. Careful not to go tumbling down the hill, she sprinted around the building to the entrance. Jolean had barely even touched the door when it swung open.

Dust covered everything in a gray haze. It floated through the air, glinting in the sunlight that filtered in through the window.

She covered her mouth stifling what would have been an ear splitting cough.

"Impossible," she screamed in her head. "I was just here last Tuesday."

Slowly, Jolean tiptoed through the linoleum-floored aisles, cautiously looking around every corner she came across.

Eventually, she reached the art section.

Bracing herself, Jolean burst out from behind the notebook rack, coming face to face with the person she had seen in the window. She screamed.

The figure fell over backward, dropping whatever they were holding. Jolean continued to scream, horrified by the eyeless being in front of her. It let out a cry; a terrible, garbled wall of sound. Splayed out on the floor, it fumbled to pick up whatever it had lost.

Jolean whacked it with her basket, causing the creature to go crashing into the shelves with a disgusting crunch! It clambered to its feet and scurried away, a loud, crackly screeching fading into the distance.

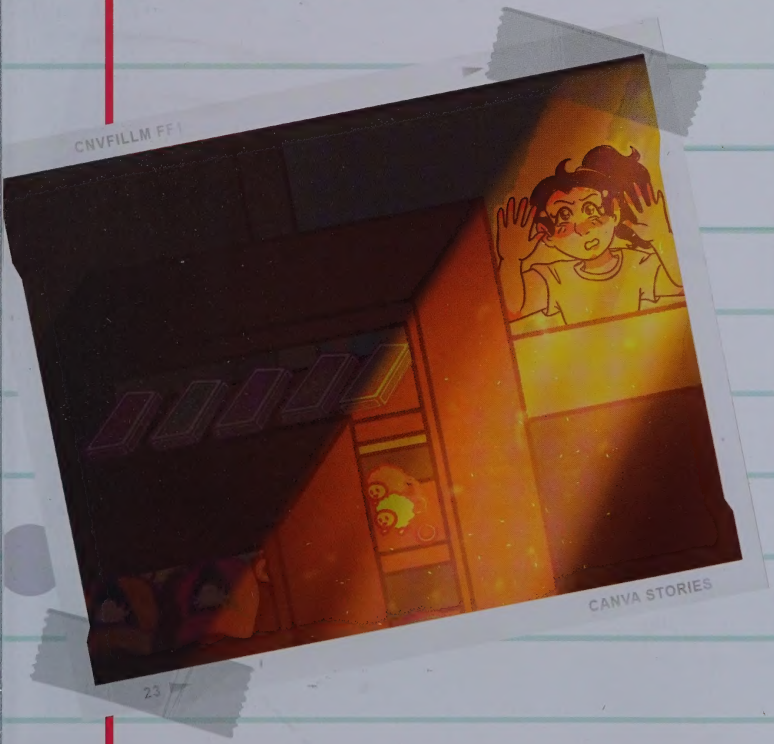
Jolean gasped for air, sliding down to the floor.

"What was that thing?!" That terrible creature with black voids for eyes, with a grotesque slimy mouth full of tiny, razor sharp teeth. It was something out of a nightmare.

Her foot kicked something on the ground. She looked down. A large pink eraser lay on the floor. Two bright eyes stared up at her, along with one wide, beaming smile.

Despite her situation, Jolean found herself smiling too. She picked up the eraser and placed it gently in her basket. Then, she grabbed a pack of pencils and made her way back home.

Special Note- Hi friends! Hopefully you enjoyed the first chapter of The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser by this talented author. The adventures will continue with bimonthly chapters- one in that month's edition of the Spartana and the other exclusively online. So if you want to follow Jolean's story, look for chapter 2 on the website in about 2 weeks! And never fear- if you miss a chapter from the hard copy or just need a refresher, all chapters will be on the website the day after they're published in the monthly issue. Please feel free to leave a comment on the website or send an email to the author (katelyn.styborski@students.sacs.k12.in.us) with your thoughts on the chapter. Happy reading!



THE SPARTANA
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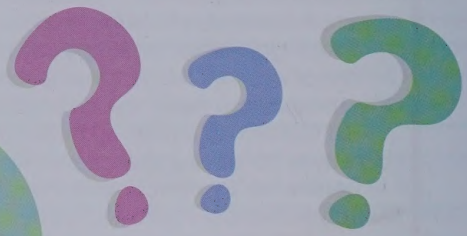
Like the content you see here? Check out hhsspartana.com for more exclusive online stories and columns. Plus, catch up on our past issues and articles. Our Spartana staff is dedicated to making our content available digitally and accessible to everyone, so keep an eye on the website as the newest part of the Spartana family.

Freshmen

Written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW

Starting the school year can be nerve-wracking for anyone, especially for students who are entirely new to the school. Entering freshman year is accompanied by challenges unique to that grade, but you don't have to go through it alone.



What if I get lost?

A common concern amongst freshmen is not being able to find their way around the many halls of Homestead. The size of the school on top of the construction can make the school a confusing landscape for those not accustomed to the building. "My only concern was how big that school is," Kia Reeder (9) said. Though intimidating from the outside, Homestead is set up in blocks of classrooms, such as the 100s, 900s, 400s, and so on. Understanding where these sections are in the school can eliminate some of this stress. If knowing that is still not enough, maps are located on the wall of almost every hallway and teachers will be happy to help you find your class; all you have to do is ask.

How do I stay on top of my homework?

The workload of high school can seem overwhelming to those who have never had to attend seven classes a day. "I was worried about not being able to balance dance and my homework," Madilyn McDonald (9) said. While not everyone will be participating in the same sports or afterschool activities, managing studying and homework is still important. When it comes to keeping up with your work, Canvas and a personal planner can be a huge help. Having a place to write down your upcoming assignments and tests will help you plan out your study schedule. Most teachers will have the assignments, tests, and quizzes on the weekly calendar which can assist those who struggle with organization.

What if I don't like my classes?

"What if I regret my choice of classes" Antonella Cantasano (9) said prior to starting the new school year. While this is an understandable concern, there are also benefits to taking classes that may be out of your comfort zone. High school has considerably more variety in class options than middle school. This attribute makes it a perfect time to try new things and discover passions you may not have even considered to be possibilities. It is important to note that your classes are not necessarily set in stone. If you email your counselor or go to student services, they may be able to help you replace that class with something you are more interested with and comfortable in.

Advice

Get involved!

I'm sure you've heard this a thousand times from a thousand different people, but it really is good advice. High school doesn't have to just be going to classes and doing homework. With the amount of clubs Homestead has, there is something for everyone. Participating in school events, activities, and clubs is a great way to broaden your social circle and discover new things.

Ask questions!

If you are confused in a class, the best thing you can do for yourself is to ask questions. As simple as it sounds, many high school students seem to forget that their teachers are there to help them learn. A teacher will never get mad at you for not understanding something right away, so don't be afraid to ask.

Work hard!

Another seemingly obvious piece of advice is to put your best foot forward as you start your first year of high school. Trying your hardest in your classes now will set you up for success in more challenging classes. It will also help you learn what studying techniques work best for you, which can be applied throughout the rest of high school.

Get certain classes out of the way!

Classes like health, personal finance and gym are best to take in your second or first year of school to get them out of the way. They're required credits and therefore unavoidable, but taking them sooner rather than later gives you more freedom in scheduling later down the line.

Don't overexert yourself!

You shouldn't expect yourself to be doing everything, especially not in freshman year. While taking harder classes will be beneficial to you, overworking yourself to achieve impossible goals is worse than letting some of those goals go. Make high school worth your while, not just in education, but also in experiences. Have fun!

If you're still worried, the good news is that it gets better. After a while you'll have gotten the hang of it and begun to understand the general flow of high school better. There is no reason to feel any outlandish amounts of stress over ninth grade. "It all works out in the end," said McDonald.

LIFE

CLOSING THE GAP

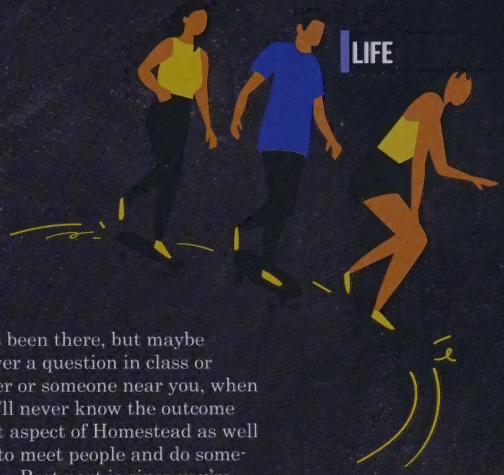
Written and designed by:
KAIYA CRONKHITE

Every student and teacher goes through it, it's basically the circle of life. At the beginning of each semester you're stuck with new people you've probably never met or barely know, but with these 3 tips you'll be on your way to close the gap.

TIP #1

Tip #1: Don't Judge a book by its cover

It may be old news but it's true, whether you used to be friends or you've heard about them through other people you never really know who they are until you break down your old prejudice. As high schoolers people talk but as an individual you have to be careful what you believe it's always best to not make up your mind about someone until you really know them and can decide for yourself. For example, "Some people may feel intimidated or think someone's mean just because they have their arms crossed," Alessia Passoni (10) said. Body language says a lot about a person but you have to be careful in your assumptions as well. Entrepreneurs.com says that maintaining an "Open" body language is key to appearing friendly and approachable, so if you feel like you may be diverting people try smiling more or keeping your hands by your side. As a whole with less judgement talking to new people and getting to know them would be a breeze.



TIP #2

Tip #2: Go out of your comfort zone
Yeah it can be hard to take that leap into the unknown, everyones been there, but maybe it doesnt have to be so scary. Start taking baby steps, maybe answer a question in class or answer more than you usually do. Try talking to your table partner or someone near you, when the teachers aren't talking of course. Be confident in yourself, you'll never know the outcome unless you take that step, you could meet your best friend. A great aspect of Homestead as well is the many clubs we offer. If you find yourself looking for a place to meet people and do something you enjoy you should definitely check out our variety of clubs. Best part is since you're all in the same club you most likely are both interested in that subject so it's easy grounds to start a conversation about. To find out more information on club selections visit the SACS Homepage and select our school (Homestead Highschool) and select the drop down menu called activities. There you can find a list of all the clubs and extracurricular activities Homestead has to offer. Also if you happen to love writing about anything you can think of or love graphic design, feel free to reach out to our newspaper supervisor Mrs. Brehm at lbrehm@sacs.k12.in.us and ask about what you can do to join our newspaper staff. Even if you don't feel like taking the class specifically, we do accept guest writers!

TIP #3

Tip #3: Be open minded and welcoming
If you're a pretty open and sociable person, you probably get along pretty well with people. Sometimes you extroverts out there "adopt" an introvert and end up becoming pretty good friends with them. Being open and making someone feel comfortable with you and like they can share ridiculous things is always the start of a good friendship. Listening is just as important as anything else though, if you feel like you're not heard or feel left out people tend to drift apart so make sure you listen to your friends. Remember being friendly is what sparks a friendship, but being understanding and trustworthy is what maintains them. Sometimes the best friends are the ones who are the most different and diverse. "In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." – Maya Angelou.

What Club Will

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

INTRO:

There's something for everyone here at Homestead. From chicken nuggets to travel, from anime to Rube Goldberg, and from aviation to ping pong, there's a way for everyone to be involved with something they're passionate about. I've selected some of the most popular and most interesting clubs to feature, but there are so many more. These include Philosophy Club, Acoustic Music Club, Gay-Straight Alliance and K-Pop Club, plus a variety of others (check the Activities tab on the HHS website for a list of all our clubs- yes, there's more). Without further ado, it's time to figure out what club you want to stick with this school year.

ART:

Homestead has a number of clubs for the artistic-minded creatives that populate our halls. Photography Club focuses on (surprise, surprise) photography and the love of photography as well as giving experiences not offered in class. Basket Weaving Club, too, is just what it sounds like: a club where you can learn how to or improve your basket-weaving skills. Students are required to purchase their own materials. Finally, Art Club works on a variety of different projects throughout the year, and acts as an extension of knowledge from Fine Arts classes. Students interested must enroll at one of the first two meetings of each semester.

POLITICS:

If you're interested in current events and politics, Homestead has options for people on both sides of the spectrum. Young Progressives leans left and is frequented by those who view themselves as liberal, progressive, or leftist. Young Americans for Freedom leans right and is frequented by those who view themselves as conservative, right-wing, or libertarian. Both groups encourage members to attend the others' meetings, which leads to fun debate and healthy discussion.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Have a heart for helping others and volunteering? Homestead has two major clubs that focus on community outreach. Key Club is run through Kiwanis International, a service organization and has more rigid requirements. Interact Club is run through Rotary International and is more flexible, focusing on introducing students to the idea of Service Above Self. Both clubs are great ways to get involved in the community and in volunteering.

Academic:

Homestead has numerous clubs for the more intellectually and academically inclined. These include the new Book Club, which reads and discusses literature (shocking, I know), and Chess Club, which meets to play chess with friends and fellow students. Another popular club is Biomedical Science Club, which listens to a different speaker each month from the biomedical or healthcare field. Finally, there's Academic Team, which takes place in the spring, and is a quiz-style competition with teams in the areas of Science, Math, Social Studies, Fine Arts, English, and Interdisciplinary. Teams compete in the Academic Super Bowl at the state level.

World Languages:

If you're taking a language class or are just interested in the language and culture of other countries, these clubs are for you! Spanish Club focuses on Spanish culture and language, French Club on French culture and language, and German Club on German culture and language. These clubs' activities range from sampling food to watching films. Latin Club is slightly different, focusing on the culture and language of Rome and the ancient world, as well as competing in the Junior Classical League at the state level.

Stick With You?

More Fun:

There's a number of other clubs that don't really fit in a specific category, so here they are! The first is Film Club, which meets to watch and discuss films. Then, there's Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) Club, which is perfect for anyone who loves roleplaying and fantasy, as well as Robotics Club, which is great for those interested in building and competing with a robot. And we can't forget our Environmental Club, which always dares to be a force of nature that seeks to make Homestead more environmentally conscious.

More Fun:

The list continues with some more unique clubs like Catan Club, which gathers to play the classic board game Settlers of Catan (much less complicated than it sounds, by the way) and Audio Aficionados, which listens to and reviews a different album every week. Then, there's FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America), which consists of fun activities ranging from child development to culinary skills to fashion and interior design. Finally, there's Asian Alliance, which gathers to discuss Asian cultures and learn about other students' heritage.

SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

GASTRONOMIC APPELLATIONS

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

OLIVIA FRY

"The most bizarre experience so far that I have experienced at Homestead was the second day of school. Everyone was soaked from head to toe. My sister and I had to park out by the Environmental Center and I remember walking in, wondering what I got myself into. Once I got to class, many people had see through shirts and drenched hair. It was like nothing I ever saw at Woodside," Olivia Fry (9) said.

Luckily, Fry still has faith in Homestead.

"I could dedicate hours to playing basketball. I enjoy the sport and I hope to play to throughout all of my high school years," Fry said.

In her free time, Fry enjoys going to the Landing's Nawa and ordering the pineapple chicken fried rice. While the dish is extravagant in flavor and presentation (it is served in a pineapple), do not underestimate Fry's rationality.

Regarding possible aquatic companions, Fry said, "I would rather be stuck in a body of water with a shark because unless you're bleeding, I am not sure how much damage they will really do to you."

I did not ask Fry about her potato of a cousin. I can only assume that she finds them delicious.

CARSON NUTTER

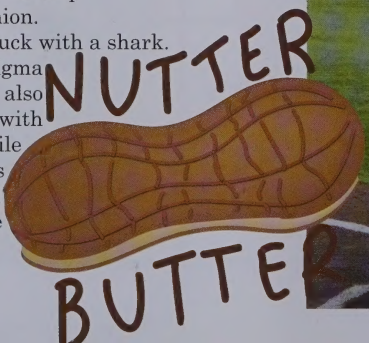
Apparently, Carson Nutter's diet does not solely consist of Nutter Butters. Like Waterman, his favorite food is fettuccine alfredo.

Speaking of Nutter's favorites, his front-running natural phenomenon is shooting stars.

"The natural phenomenon of a shooting star comes with good luck and looks cool. Tornadoes and hurricanes are cool but they are cliche and will destroy everything," Nutter said.

Regarding his preferred companionship in water, Nutter has a definite opinion.

"100 percent I would rather be stuck with a shark. I don't buy into the general stigma people have against sharks but I also wouldn't want to be in the water with one. However, against a crocodile there's nothing you can do. Crocs still probably swim at 20 mph and you can't just punch them in the nose like a shark," Nutter said.



GABBIE WATERMAN

Gabbie Waterman, whose favorite food is not water nor watermelon (it is fettuccine alfredo), is a senior at Homestead. However, her craziest memory of Homestead was as a freshman. Waterman arrived at Door 4 for an AP World review session. Those who remember the now demolished door also are aware that Waterman was not in the right place. Fortunately, Waterman received assistance in a most peculiar way.

"Ahead of me was a man setting down a nice bike and wearing full biker gear like he was in a race. He was holding a baby bird. He leaned in towards me and said 'Look, it's injured.' Then he opened his hands towards the sky and it flew away. He unlocked the door near us and said 'I'm not supposed to let you in here but I will anyways,'" Waterman said.

According to Waterman, Monopoly brings about her true self.

"Something about that board game brings out both the best and worst parts of me. I can say with confidence I would sacrifice friendships to own the boardwalk. I've driven my family away from me by playing 'too aggressively' so I actually don't get to play that often," Waterman said.

JOHANNA FISH

No, Johanna Fish (11) is not a fan of fish. However, she will eat "anything Chinese American or with noodles."

Upon being asked what she could dedicate hours to, Fish said, "Definitely dance, but it does get exhausting. I play a couple of different instruments, including the flute, guitar, ukulele, and piano."

Such activities (especially those at Homestead) can lead to peculiar experiences.

"One time for dance team we needed to use a gym but football, baseball, or whatever always needs to be in there. We couldn't get into any other room, so we tried going to the cafeteria. I went to squat down to start the dance and I put my hand in something on the floor. I have no idea what it was. It was so gross," Fish said.

Although Fish is no fish, she does enjoy water.

"I love rain. Listening to it when you sit in your room and read a book, or falling asleep, or when you're camping and you're in a tent - it sounds so good," said Fish.

However, when trapped with a carnivore in water she chooses the crocodile.

"Crocodile. I feel like they snap faster and it would over quicker," Fish said.

THE DEBATE OF THE BAND TEES'

written and designed by
KATE HUTNER

School is back in session, effectively bringing back the debate of what to wear to class. While walking through the hallways this year, you might notice that more and more students are wearing band tee shirts, ranging from Pink Floyd to Led Zeppelin. Who are these people, and why are so many kids supporting them? Believe it or not, the 60s, 70s, and 80s are back, and it's easy to tell from the style of teenagers these days. Whether we are talking bell bottom jeans, high-top sneakers, or the classic scrunchies, the current fashion trends resemble the past rebellious outfits of the '60s, '70s, and '80s.

One of the most popular trends happens to be the classic band t-shirts. However the reasons behind buying these shirts differ between each individual. Some teens buy the classic rock shirts, such as Jimi Hendrix or AC/DC, due to their pure love for that artist. However, other teens may just purchase the shirt for the design, providing controversy for those who do truly love the music. According to Allison Lantz (12), wearing a band t-shirt due to the enjoyment of the music "is a good way to connect and make friends." One can easily "go up to another person that they may not know and discuss the music, leading to a new friend." Lantz said. However, she believes that "if one just wears it for the style they should not get any judgment or hate from that".

Although some may agree with this, others find wearing a band shirt just for the design misleading. Cael Jeffery (12) believes that it's "not necessary to love the band that you wear, but the person wearing the shirt should like, or at least know, one or two songs by that artist or band." If you have ever worn a band shirt, you might have encountered the classic band quizzer, questioning you on the band you are wearing. It may come in handy to have a few facts about them in your back pocket, like Cael believes. Whether or not the band shirts are being worn for pure love of the band or for the design, it can be a conversation starter, leading to a new friendship. So, next time you see someone with a band shirt that you like, be sure to ask them about it.

HOW'D IT ALL START?

With Ariana Grande and her killer knee-high boots, inspired by the classic gogo boots, Kendall Jenner's sweater vests and hippie patterned pants, and Harry Styles' defiance of fashion stigma by wearing dresses, or even just bell bottom jeans, celebrities can be seen wearing '60s and '70s fashion trends left and right. The heavy influence celebrities have on the fashion world has created the returning spark of past fashion trends. At first, many watched the influencers of our generation through their phones, admiring their outfits but never venturing to buy similar clothes. Now, many are finding the courage to wander into the realm of the hippie, rockstar styles once again, and it is no longer just for the celebrities.

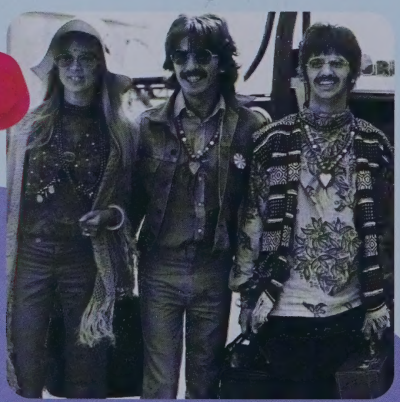
When walking around school, keep a lookout for highwaisted jeans, bell bottoms, groovy prints, and the classic rock tees. It sparks wonder of what trends will be next, or if these current trends will ever die out. The scrunchies from the 80's have already come and gone, so will the rock tees and bell bottoms of the 60's and 70's do the same? Or, are they here to make a stand, permanently? Maybe the 90's will take over, bringing back the low rise jeans, turtle necks, and denim on denim. Or maybe, you could be the one to start the trends again, stepping out of your comfort zone to wear a piece that calls your name, inspiring others to do the same. The fashion world is up for grabs, and all it takes to rock a new style is confidence.

Counterculture

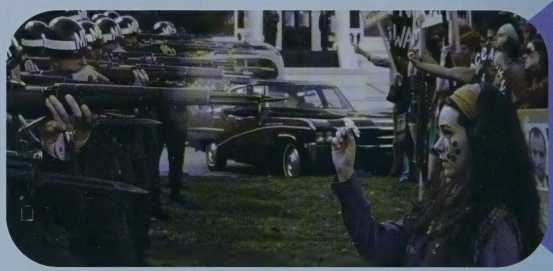
Written and Designed by
KEALYNN TUNKS

In the late '60s, some US citizens started to reject the social constructs of the '50s and question authority—a shift which ultimately kick-started the counterculture. It originally "stemmed from what was called 'the new left' in the early 1960s," said Mrs. Squires, a U.S. history teacher at Homestead. The counterculture consisted of 3 different groups of people: hippies, preppy protestors and disgruntled Vietnam veterans. They all had one thing in common: they hated the establishment. Squires states that the people of this time "want[ed] their voices to be heard."

Hippies are the people generally heard about whenever this time period is brought up. They were strong advocates of non-violence and peace. They were very opposed to the Vietnam war and protested it alongside their like minded counterparts. Preppy protesters worked hand-in-hand with the hippies to create peace and love amongst everyone. Disgruntled Vietnam veterans had a slightly different story. Although they also hated the war, it was for different reasons. They had experienced the horrors and trauma of the war firsthand and were extremely against it because they didn't want anyone else to undergo the trials and tribulations they did.

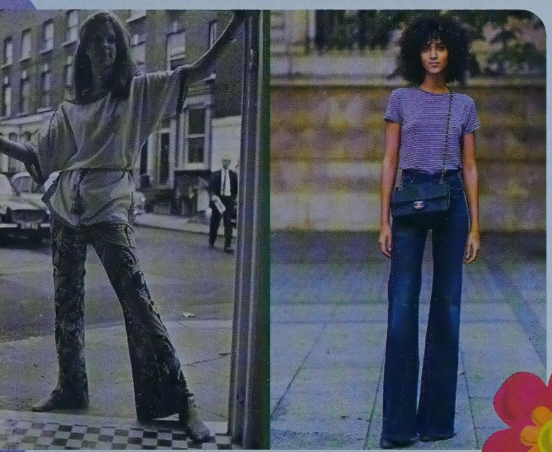


Many younger people rebelled against their parents and the government,which included protests such as the Vietnam War. The Flower Power movement, a passive and peaceful resistance movement, was an example of this. On Oct. 21, 1967 more than 100,000 people gathered around the Pentagon to show their opposition towards the war. During this protest, 2,500 army troops were protecting the building. George Harris, an aspiring actor, stepped up and inserted the stem of a flower into the barrel of a guard's gun. This influential movement led other people there to do the same, and eventually almost every gun was left with a flower.



The music of the 60s was unlike that of any other decade. The introduction of rock 'n roll started with Elvis, the proclaimed king of rock. Some popular artists of that time included Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles and Bob Dylan. These artists were popular with the younger generations, but were heavily frowned upon by the older ones for their strong language and bad influences. According to Squires, people often "expressed themselves through various styles of dress, music, the use of drugs, and, for some, communal living."

One event of collective expression was Woodstock, an extremely popular music festival where hundreds of people could gather for 3 days of peace, love and music. The first Woodstock was in August of 1969 in upstate New York. An estimated 500,000 people showed up to this event. Hurricane Camile was making its way into the Mississippi gulf coast which led to there being horrible storms up north, and one of these storms just happened to fall on one of the 3 days of woodstock; people ran around trying to find any shelter from the rain they could. The planners of this event had been swamped enough with a venue change, a shortage of food and major sanitation issues that this was just another hindrance added to their ever growing list.



Flower power, flared pants, long hair, vibrant colors and peace signs were all a part of the new and obscure fashion of the 1960s. Much like everything else they did, their fashion was also different and very against the norm. Some modern fashion worn today was derived from the fashion that was popular then; a good example of hippy fashion coming back is flared pants, you can get them almost anywhere and are being worn by famous people time and time again. The '60s was a very influential time and changed things for many people and opened the eyes of many to new ideas and ways of thinking.

The summer of 1967 was deemed "the summer of love." Haight Ashbury was an extremely popular place for like minded people to gather. Haight ashbury was named "the birthplace of the hippie movement," lots of peaceful protests and psychedelic experimentation started there and was then spread to the rest of the country to create the start of the counterculture.

Environmental Enlightenment

Written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE

With the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report comes news that most people have been afraid of. The IPCC says that humans have "warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land" and "many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia." Mrs. Merkling, an environmental teacher here at Homestead, says that "numerous global activities such as extraction/refining/burning of fossil fuels, raising our volumes of livestock and use of fertilizers, increased wildfires, and deforestation are all essential to address" when taking into account how we impact the environment. Due to increases in CO2 emissions in the atmosphere, temperatures have increased faster since 1970 than they have in the previous 2000 years. Research has shown that the Earth is expected to see increases in temperature up to 2 degress Celsius by the end of the 21st century. Heavily populated areas will not be the only ones affected by climate change. In fact, the IPCC says that "climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe."

Due to the severity of climate change, it is important that changes to help the environment are made sooner rather than later. Madeline Emenhiser, an executive board member for the environmental club, says that when it comes to how soon the environment should be helped "it is important to note our current state. We are currently in the sixth mass extinction. Due to how severe climate change has become, actions to help save the environment should be taken now."

"Due to how severe climate change has become, actions to help save the environment should be taken now."

PHOTO COURTESY OF: time.com

Mrs. Merkling: "Change starts with each of us, and if we all try to make a small effort to change the way we go about our daily lives, it will end up adding up to a much bigger impact."

As sustainability is starting to become more mainstream, companies have the opportunity to continue to greenwash. In other words, companies market their products as "sustainable" and "good for the environment," even though the products are not. Ava Baumgartner, a member of the executive board for the environmental club, says that "big companies pollute the air and water with chemicals, plastics, oil, and air pollutants, marketing it to the mass majority of the population as sustainable."

Who exactly is responsible for the increases in temperature and CO2 emissions, and how can students at Homestead help out? 100 companies, ranging from government owned companies to private ones, contribute 71% of global emissions, but not in the way you may think. These companies, including Shell and Exxon, usually extract oil and sell it to a consumer. The consumer then uses the oil as gas and makes it into CO2. Overconsumption is causing the climate crisis, so limiting consumption would cut back on emissions. By limiting what is consumed, a company has to limit what they sell.

Signing petitions to encourage politicians and companies to lower CO2 emissions is another easy way to help out. Emenhiser says that "some fun ways to help the environment is to carpool with your friends or go thrift shopping together." Carpooling limits the amount of CO2 released by driving, and thrift shopping produces no new products for a consumer to buy. Additionally, looking into how ethical a company is can prevent a consumer from buying products that are made using unethical practices. And while some people may be assuming they are helping the environment when recycling, Emenhiser says that "recycling allows for companies to produce multiple products and thus profit more. Recycling is important, but reducing and reusing are much better." Finally, composting can be an easy way to help out. Composting limits the amount of methane gas, which is produced by decomposing food, that is released into the environment. Through these simple actions students here at Homestead can help the environment.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-deforestation.html; www.globaltimes.cn/page/202101/1214254.shtml; www.usatoday.com; www.scientificamerican.com; waste4change.com

MURAL WALK

written and designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

Explore the marvelous murals that brighten up the streets and alleys of downtown Fort Wayne! All four featured mural artists worked in collaboration with the volunteer-based organization Art This Way.

1 Theoplis Smith III, artist and owner of Phresh Laundry LLC, views everything as "a huge coloring book." With his Pearl Street mural, he aims to embody the spirit of Fort Wayne, the second largest city in Indiana, through a city slogan like the classic tagline, "I Love New York."

Smith's art installation, "I Scream Fort Wayne," features a bold and energetic illustration of an ice cream cone being offered to a waiting pup. However, in place of the ice cream is the Allen County Courthouse, a classic feature of the Fort Wayne skyline.

In painting the mural, Smith had to ensure that the weather was just right—both for him and for the paints. He hopes to spark creativity in people of all ages who view his final piece.

"My favorite detail is the harmony of colors colliding to make one picture," Smith said. "It's a reminder that all kinds of people can come together and make a bigger picture and impact!"

Smith, a self-taught artist, has always possessed an innate sense of creativity. He feels that art is a unifying force able to bridge differences.

"The arts are the glue to this city," Smith said. "Being Black, I feel it's important to have representation. I've seen a Black artist that looks like me bring a community together. It became my superpower."

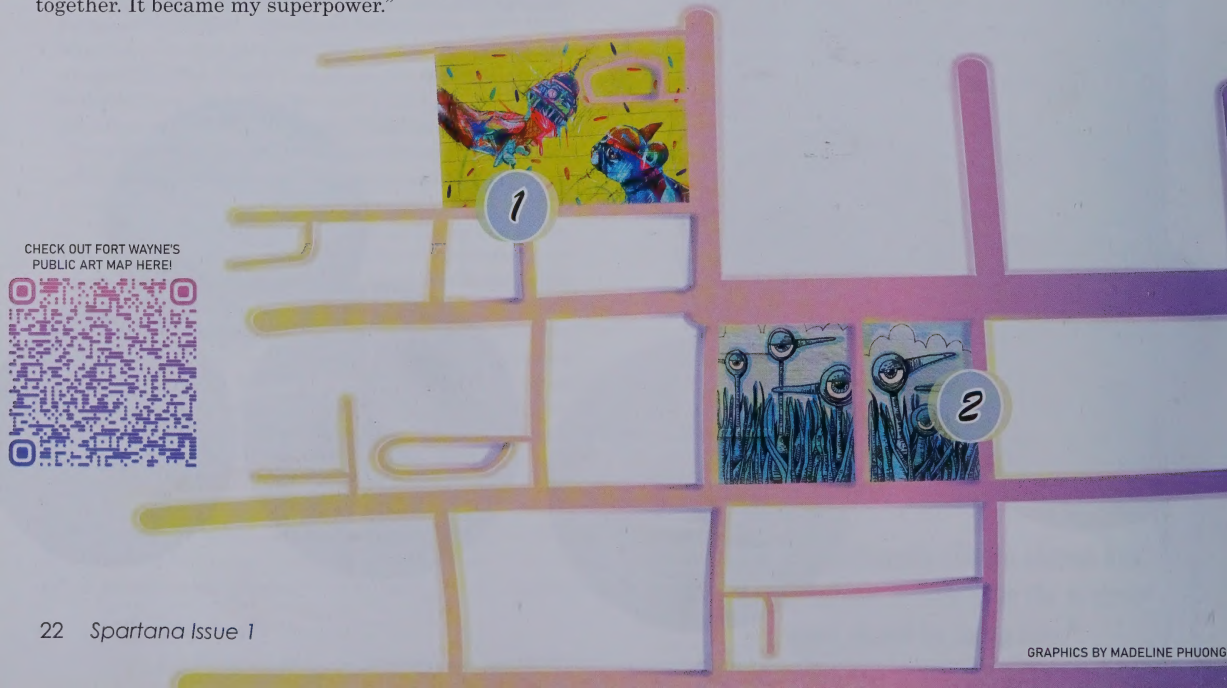
2 Artist, writer, and photographer Bryan Ballinger saw his Calhoun Street mural as an opportunity to translate his distinctive inking style into a lifesize edition. A self-titled collector of "vintage recipes, absurd non-perishable food items, and music played by animals," Ballinger has exhibited work internationally.

As his mural's title "The Blue Birds" denotes, the public artwork is a stylized, monochromatic series of blue birds "silently judging you" among stalks of grass.

In planning for the mural, he took inspiration from a sketch of his done with a Pentel Brush Pen. The most challenging part of the mural process was "preparing the wall for the painting because it's not very exciting." Ballinger also said that he had to get used to passersby seeing the mural in its unfinished state. His favorite part of the installation is how different people interact with and uniquely interpret what the blue birds are thinking.

Ballinger is not unfamiliar with the public art process. He has completed over a dozen public art projects across Indiana, from painting larger-than-life murals to a Humane Fort Wayne LoveSeat to even a fire hydrant.

"I LOVE public art! It is so fun to contribute to the community and to interact with people as you are painting," Ballinger said.



CHECK OUT FORT WAYNE'S PUBLIC ART MAP HERE!

GRAPHICS BY MADELINE PHUONG

3 JUURI based her West Wayne Street mural on the famed lacquerware of Takaoka, the coastal Japanese sister city of Fort Wayne. As a Tokyo-born Japanese American artist, she was particularly inspired by the lacquered masks used in Noh and kabuki theatre, which are classical Japanese art forms of dance-drama.

Her mural, "Lion's Dance," features one such lion mask, inspired by the play "Kagamijishi." The art installation also portrays the play's maiden, who performs a ceremonial lion dance "before turning into the lion... hence the white mane-like hair." Additionally, JUURI translated the reds, greens, and golds directly from the play's characters and costuming into her final work.

"Kabuki is an unusual subject matter for street art, but an endangered form of theatre in Japan, so I'm happy to be able to focus on it and hint at its beauty for audiences to learn more," JUURI said.

Having been an artist for her entire life, JUURI first began her journey of mural painting in 2014. She has painted and applied to various murals all over the world, with her biggest hurdle being working in the summer heat. Regardless, she enjoyed contributing to the public art scene in downtown Fort Wayne.

"This has been one of the best experiences I have had working on a mural," JUURI said.

4 Jeremy Stroup, whose work is based on religion, myths, and symbolism, views his art as a meditative form of insight. His Grand Street mural evokes the wildlife and scenery associated with Fort Wayne's three rivers.

"I was excited to contribute to Fort Wayne's downtown public art scene because it seemed like there was a big push for more new art from local artists," Stroup said.

Stroup's initial design proposal of "Blue Diver" featured a bird's eye view of the river scene in the final piece. He decided that a side view of the wading blue heron would make the installation "more immersive and energetic, giving the viewer a different vantage point." The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo otter exhibit most influenced Stroup in this change. Upon arrival at the mural site, Stroup also discovered that he had to alter the dimensions of his design.

"I had to fill a lot of room with various fish and otters, so some of them have some goofy faces that I feel like are more fun to take a closer look at," Stroup said.

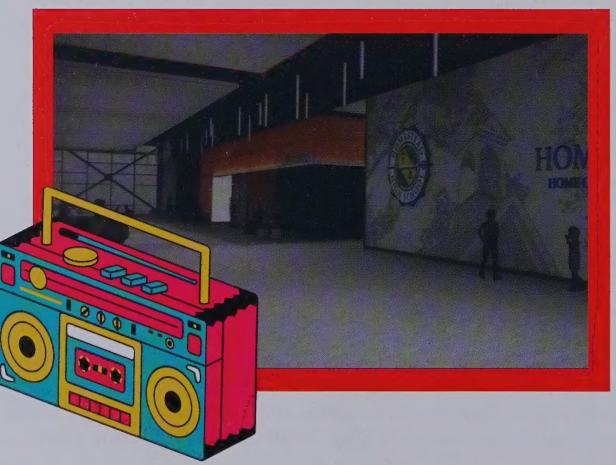
Having little experience with public art installations, Stroup found the application process to be his biggest challenge, since "it can be very difficult and discouraging." He added that working from a ladder was a challenge as well.

Despite these obstacles, Stroup said that, by the end of the process, he felt a sense of validation from having a permanent installation in the local area.

50 Years Celebration

written and designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

If you couldn't already tell by the expansive cracks in concrete walls, concerningly sticky floor tiles, and the strange brown liquid dripping from ceiling tiles in the band room, Homestead has been around for an incredibly long time. On Friday, Aug. 27, Homestead's 50th anniversary was celebrated at a Tailgate & Tour Event, as well as a Recognition Ceremony for those involved with the original football team.



"We started out planning this three years ago," said Alyssa Braman, counselor, graduate of Homestead, and co-organizer, "and we had a really big committee of teachers, admin, and students." In addition to Braman and Kara Klinker's tireless efforts in leading the cause, Dr. Park Ginder, former principal and current superintendent, had his own role in this event. According to Braman, "Dr. Ginder was the heart of it," as he has played a major role in planning. He also collected Homestead artifacts and started an alumni publication during his tenure, showing even more dedication in preserving the past.

Many students may have accurately noticed that 2021 is not the actual 50th anniversary of Homestead, but having the event this year makes it even more special. To Mrs. Braman, this event is "to bring the community together after the year we've had," which makes it "more meaningful to those alumni.

I personally had the opportunity to talk to said alumni, which I will now recount for you. From the "Class of '85 'Baby'" (as detailed on his nametag), I met Kent Uhen (also pictured below in his senior photo), a man with a boisterous personality. He was incredibly assertive and introduced himself to me, a stark contrast to the other alumni I talked to. Uhen claims that the class of '85 is "the reason for why we have security at graduation"; however, I could find no information to confirm nor deny this claim.

In addition to Uhen, I had the opportunity to talk to Susan Brooks, a class of '78 graduate. Most impressively, she is a former congresswoman for Indiana's fifth district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Brooks has served on many committees during her tenure as a representative. She is currently set to join the Indiana University McKinney School of Law at IUPUI, and will take on several roles there.

One of the last alumni that I talked to was Kathy Dollahan, class of '97. Her favorite memory from her years at Homestead was right after the Environmental Center was first built, and to commemorate it, SACS held a field day for grades 7-12. During the field day, students would grab other students' wrists and ankles and throw them into a mud pit. It was incredibly messy, but it was also incredibly fun.

In addition to alumni from the older side of the spectrum, some alumni graduated relatively recently. Brandon Quick, a class of '17 graduate, complained to me about how much worse parking has gotten over the years, and I could not agree more. It is also a testament to how much Homestead has grown even in a short period of time.

Of course, the 50th Year event would not have been what it was if not for the hard work of Homestead's Student Ambassadors. Several stood outside in the hot and humid sun while handing out name tags and shirts to the alumni. Another group spent their time giving tours, walking alumni from one side of the school to a completely different side of the school, all the while explaining the differences that have happened and those that are yet to come. Yeyoon Song (11) states that "It was definitely interesting when we heard about their experiences in the past and the idea that they were walking these halls before we were born is so interesting and strange."

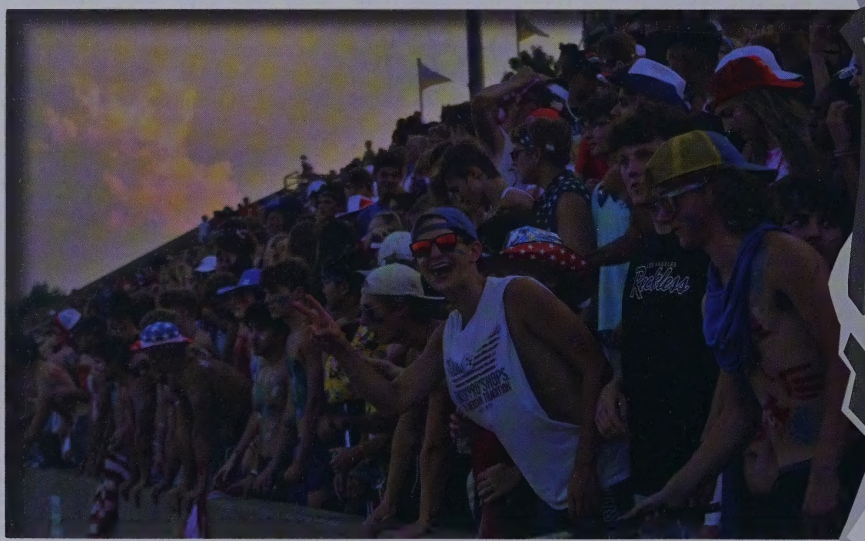
High school seems to last forever, especially when stuck in the midst of homework, teenage angst, and interests that you seemingly do not have time for. This event is a reminder that there will be a day that you look back at these years, and when you do, it would be nice to have something worth looking back on. Braman says to "get involved, because that's where you find your people, that's where memories are made, and that's where the relationships are built."

Photos Taken by GANGA SUBRAMANIAN
Graphics from Canva

Spartan PRIDE AND PATRIOTISM

USA THEMED NIGHT

Canva



HOMESTEAD HIGHSCHOOL
2021

Photo credit: Kaiya Crankhite

U S A

written by
ALESSIA PASSONI
designed by Kaiya Cronkhite

The Homestead Spartans play to win. In the past decade, Homestead has won many titles, including their seasonal goal to win the football conference. The unique atmosphere of these games has created a convivial experience for many students. Roaring and laughter emerges from the student section as fans welcome home another victorious game. The atmosphere has felt like home to many Homestead Spartans. The student section is a way to make memories and engage in Spartan Spirit.

"The idea behind the leadership group is to try to form a partnership between the school and the leadership group in order to magnify the impact of the student section and make it even better," Assistant Principle Stephen Clark said. His goal is to expand the student section beyond just boys' football and include a variety of individuals. He believes that students feel as though it is only exclusive to a specific group, but, in fact, it is not. Students can work together to find themes for games as a way to show their support and school spirit. Every game bleachers are packed to the brim with painted faces and matching colors. The Spartans not only have grown to rely on such a student section, but it helped, and continues to help, encourage them to bring home a victory. The faces of students show pure bliss and excitement as their team scores touchdown after touchdown. Whether you like football or have no idea how it works, students enjoy the adrenaline from these intense games and the happiness they provide.

In 2020, something happened that we never would have expected: COVID-19 prevented students from attending athletic games. Not only that, but new guidelines were put in place such as masking and social distancing to protect the students from such sickness. This virus disrupted many ways of life. Athletes had to learn to play without an audience and still perform to the best of their abilities. Many students were disappointed with the thought of not being able to make memories with friends in the student section. Team seasons were cut short as a result, and disappointment spread. In addition, incoming freshmen were looking forward to these events as a way to socialize and become a friendly face at Homestead. The seniors, too, were impacted as they watched their last year at Homestead be put under so many regulations.

This year will look a lot different. The World Health Organization notices a plateau in COVID-19 after nearly two months of high cases. Moreover, the school can now allow students to attend games. Furthermore, individuals are able to come together to cheer on their Spartans. The student section helped encourage a victory last Friday. The noise and commotion encouraged a win. "It was a more enjoyable experience for everyone to have fans in the stands and to see the big student section. It was neat to see them back in the stand. Hopefully it gives us more energy and gives us a fire in our belly when we compete," Football coach Chad Zolman said. Zolman is looking forward to a positive game season with his team as well as the packed stadium. He hopes to have another amazing season with the hard work and dedication from his athletes.

"I am so excited to be able to cheer on the Spartans and to just spend time with my friends," Lola Ross (9) said. The freshmen are excited as they will be able to join their fellow classmates in the student section. If you ever get bored on a Friday night and need something to do, come to the student section and make memories that you would never thought you would.

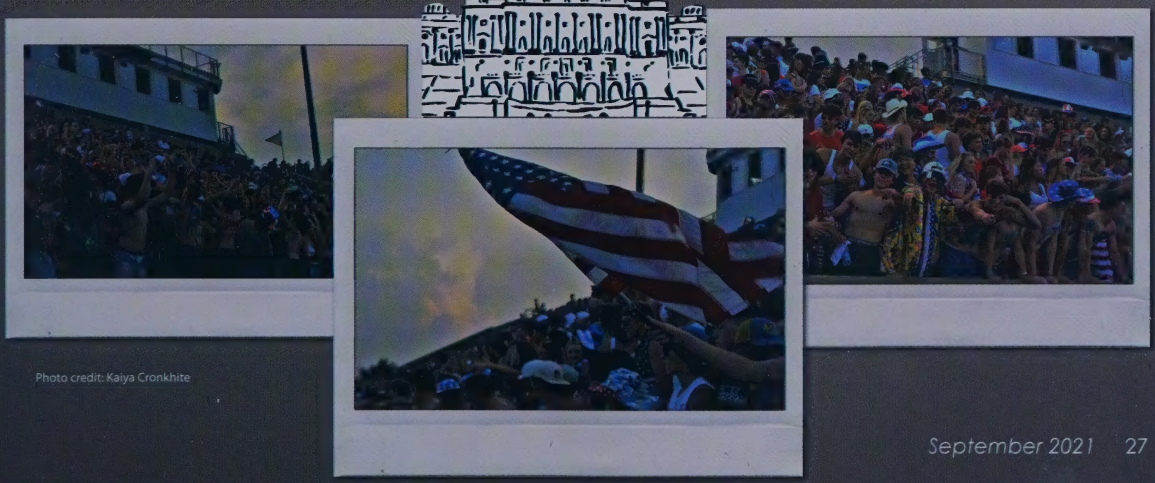
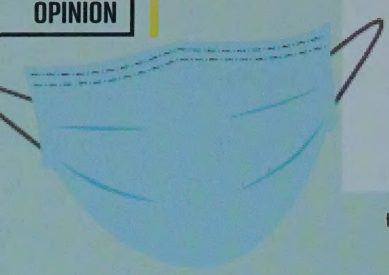


Photo credit: Kaiya Cronkhite



TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK

The Argument For Masks:

Written By
GAIA SPLENDORE

It would be an understatement to say that the world is mentally ready to move on from COVID-19. However, that's not quite the case as of yet.

With COVID-19 cases on the rise and a new variant that is more resistant to the vaccine, the pandemic is still very real.

In order to combat the virus, some students at Homestead have continued to wear masks to school while others choose to exercise their freedoms and not wear it.

The school board announced that for the 2021-2022 school year, masks are optional. Whether or not to wear a mask is a personal choice students make for themselves.

Firstly, the Center of Disease Control mentions the arrival of a new variant of the COVID-19 virus, the Delta variant.

The variant has been described as being more infectious and having a higher transmissibility rate than other variations, even if a person is fully vaccinated.

For example, student Meredith Loney (11) said, "I got Covid from cheer camp where we were advised not to wear masks and I was vaccinated."

Aside from this, Loney does not wear a mask to school, saying, "after having the variant I also have the antibodies for the variant now so it's hard to get again."

Because the Delta variant is resistant to the vaccine, the CDC has updated it's guidelines about masks, now highly recommending everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places. Indiana is currently marked as having a high transmission rate.

School buildings also have students sitting in close proximity with each other with plenty of people in one room, especially in the cafeteria.

Student Raegan Rhodehamel (12) mentioned this when explaining why she does wear a mask, saying, "I wear a mask because school is a lot of people really close to each other."

Medical professionals and certified organizations like the World Health Organization advise people to continue to wear masks, especially in places with lots of people close together, like a school.

The importance of wearing a mask to combat COVID-19 is evident. A plethora of different medical sources have highlighted the importance of wearing a mask. For example, the Olmsted Medical Center says that when two people without masks are in close contact, the transmission rate for COVID-19 is high.

In contrast, when only one person wears one it drops to a moderate risk of transmission.

When both people wear a mask, they are at low risk of transmission. Also, it is especially beneficial to wear masks to protect those who are immunocompromised.

Rhodehamel mentioned this when she said another reason that she wears a mask is because "I also hang out with my grandparents a lot and my grandpa is vulnerable to the virus."

People with autoimmune diseases, the elderly and young children are all at special risk to contract and suffer from the virus.

Some unvaccinated people, whether by choice or inability to, are more susceptible to the variant. Again, masks seem like a reasonable solution to lower transmission rates.

Some may argue that wearing a mask is uncomfortable and inconvenient, but the slight discomfort experienced when wearing a mask is a small price to pay to ensure the health and safety of others.

Overall, masks are worn to ensure public safety, not just the wearer. If just one piece of fabric can do so much to help the community, then why not wear it?

COVID-19 is still deadly: even if it does not do too much damage on a healthy teen's immune system, it can have dramatic effects for the immunocompromised .

Getting COVID-19 can be a very painful and isolating experience, so people should do their part to protect themselves and others.

Ultimately, it is a personal choice and no one is inherently good or bad for wearing one or not. Everyone has the right to make their own decisions about what is best for themselves.

SHOULD MASKS BE REQUIRED, OR SHOULD IT BE AN INDIVIDUAL CHOICE?

The Argument Against Masks:

Written And Designed By
ELAINA SCHILT

A common argument in support of mask mandates is that the Delta variant poses a new threat because the vaccine does not protect against it.

However, Oxford scientists tested the effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine against the Delta variant by recording the number of vaccinated people that tested positive for the variant.

According to the study conducted by the National Institute for Health Protection Research Unit in Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance at the University of Oxford, less than 1% of the vaccinated individuals were positive for the Delta variant, confirming the effectiveness of the vaccine, even against the new variant.

The study also found that natural immunity that comes with having been infected with the virus offers just as much protection as being vaccinated against it.

Around 64% of Americans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Fauci stated that 70-80% of Americans would need to have natural immunity for the virus to be considered controlled. Currently, 85% of Americans have natural immunity against COVID-19.

With so many Americans immune to COVID-19, there is a very small percentage of the population left vulnerable to contracting a deadly case. It is senseless to impose mask mandates in a country where the vast majority of people are extremely unlikely to contract a severe case of the virus.

We have all been told that wearing a mask is essential in slowing the spread of the disease and protecting others from infection, but this is undoubtedly called into question by the inability of masks to block the droplets through which the coronavirus is spread.

According to Canadian viral immunologist and fedeally appointed COVID-19 vaccine development expert, Dr. Byram Bridle, the aerosol droplets produced when someone sneezes or coughs can be up to 60 microns in size. The pores in typical cloth and medical masks range from 80 microns to 500 microns in size.

This means that masks allow the largest droplets to fit through even the smallest openings, as if you weren't wearing one at all.

Dr. Fauci even said that, "wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better, but it is not providing the perfect protection that people think it is." Masks are ineffective at their only job: preventing droplets from passing through.

Several school districts, including many in Fort Wayne, have once again implemented mask requirements in K-12 schools.

Kids who wear masks for more than four hours a day face potential "psychological harms," as well headaches, dehydration, and a decline in "cognitive precision," according to the Childrens' Health Defense of California.

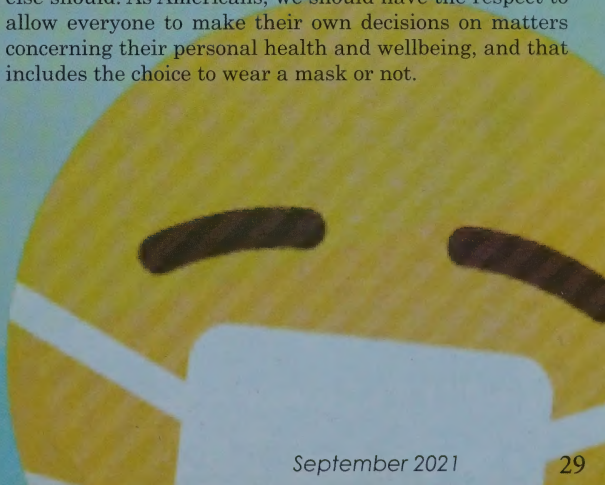
Not only does forcing children to wear face coverings for seven hours a day have negative effects on their mental health and overall wellbeing, but there is also no scientific data supporting the mandate of masks in schools.

According to the American Association of Pediatrics, over 4.41 million children have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Less than 0.03% of those cases resulted in death, and seven states even reported zero child deaths due to Covid. More kids have died from the common flu than they have from COVID-19, and masks were never suggested in the past.

Additionally, teachers and childcare workers have all had the opportunity to receive the vaccine, and over 80% of them are currently vaccinated. Children have put up with wearing masks for over a year now, and with teachers protected and children largely unaffected by Covid, there is no logical reason for mask mandates to be imposed on children in our schools.

When asked about the mask requirements at schools and other public places, Harrison Smith (10) replied, "Everyone has the right to make the choice of either wearing (a mask) or not... and people should respect others' decisions." That is the beauty of living in a country like the United States, where we are free to do as we see necessary to keep ourselves safe.

I do not believe in discouraging people from wearing masks if they feel more comfortable doing so, as they have a right to decide for themselves just as everyone else should. As Americans, we should have the respect to allow everyone to make their own decisions on matters concerning their personal health and wellbeing, and that includes the choice to wear a mask or not.



Teacher Feature: Mrs. O'Dell

written and designed by
LUKE LAND

Here at Homestead, there have been many changes as of late. From parts of campus being torn down and new parts being added to major staff changes in our school. With staff changes, a lot of new staff are working and/or teaching here for the first time.

16 new teachers were added to the staff this year. Mrs. O'Dell, a biology teacher, was interviewed to see what her goals are and how she feels about Homestead.

O'Dell has been married to her husband for 21 years and they have two daughters. They also have one dog and two guinea pigs. She currently lives quite close to Homestead.

O'Dell was not at Homestead until Sept. 1st due to her former school holding her there. O'Dell has been teaching science for 13 years.

"It has been exciting to become a part of the Homestead community," O'Dell said.

O'Dell has high expectations for students at Homestead. She expects to see great work ethic and kind students. One goal she has for herself is to attend one extra-curricular activity for every student she has this year.

The big thing that made her come to Homestead is that the administration values her experience and the hard work she has put into her career.

"They see how each year contributes to my ability to provide an excellent education for our community," O'Dell said.

She loves the staff so far. They have all been super kind and sweet to her. They are all willing to help her whenever she has a question about something. She is super excited to get to know everyone better since she has started here.

O'Dell loves the student body here at Homestead. She is impressed with the work ethic and hustle that students have, which is why she has high expectations for her students. She has also observed that we show great initiative, kindness and curiosity. She is looking forward to teaching them all this year.

"It is inspiring to work with such great students," O'Dell said.

The one pet peeve that O'Dell has with Homestead is that the cafeteria is too far of a walk for her. She hopes that when construction is fully done that the cafeteria will be closer to her room so she can enjoy the great salad bar.

During the whole interview, it was obvious that O'Dell was more than excited to start here. She has fallen in love with what Homestead has to offer, from the culture, to the atmosphere, to the students and staff. This is a place where she wants to teach for the rest of her career.

THE SPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com

THE SPARTANA'S WEBSITE IS LIVE AT HHSSPARTANA.COM, SO CHECK IT OUT TO SEE EXCLUSIVE NEW ONLINE COLUMNS AND ARTICLES AS WELL AS CATCH UP ON STORIES AND ISSUES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED!

The Spartana Needs Guest Writers!

The Spartana is looking for guest contributors for both our paper issues and our website. If you'd like to write a short article about a topic you're passionate about, talk to a newspaper staffer or email our editor-in-chief at claire.elliott@students.sacs.k12.in.us. We'd love to hear what you have to say (or more accurately, write) to the world!

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CXXII . No. 41,824 NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1973

VIETNAM ACCORD IS RE.
CEASE-FIRE BEGINS SAT
P.O.W.'S TO BE FREE IN

THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

THIRD IS CAUTIOUS

Says the Agreement Doesn't Guarantee Lasting Peace

Transcript of the Speech by President on Vietnam

Laws Show Active Youth

Spirit of Woodstock Marks 1969

Tired Rock Fans Begin Exodus

HURRICANE STUNS MISSISSIPPI COAST
S 200,000 FLEE

LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS

A NEW WEEKLY
10¢

SEYMOUR STEIN TAKES ON JOHN FLES ...
JOHN WILCOCK TAKES ON EUROPE ...
ZENGER TAKES ON L.A. NEWSPAPERS ...
LAWRENCE LIPTON TAKES OFF ...
REVIEWS OF BRECHT, BALDWIN, NABOKOV ...
CALENDAR OF HIP EVENTS ...

Vol. 1, No. 2 THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1964 10¢

A CERAMIC SKETCH FROM THE COSMOS EVERTS SHOWING AT THE ZORA ART GALLERY EARLIER THIS MONTH.

THIS EMBRYO HAS BEEN CITED AS "OBSCENE" BY THE POLICE. THE FINAL DATE FOR MR. EVERTS HAS BEEN SET FOR SEPT. 21, 1964.

THE BILL IS AN IMPORTANT TEST CASE FOR IN THIS TRIAL THE ARTIST, NOT THE EXHIBITOR, IS BEING BROUGHT INTO COURT.

Coming issues of THE FREE PRESS will comment in detail on this censorship case.

BANK OF AMERICA vs. CORE: A DUEL OF ACCUSATIONS

by DORI SCHAFFER

WHY WE APPEAR

ARTHUR KUMKIN

ISOLATION BY THE BLIZZARDS

S.F. CORE

Check out our past issues on hhsspartana.com

Spartana

Issue 2 October 2021

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cover designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

table of contents designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

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Alessia Passoni (10)
Elaina Schilt (10)
Hannah Shaw (11)
Gaia Splendore (11)
Kealynn Tunks (10)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I have always found October to be both comforting and thrilling. The temperatures cool yet the trees gain warmth. In the days of sun, there is a crisp playfulness. Rain, on the other hand, brings shades of blue and purple against green and orange. October always nurtures us in some way. For some, it is apple cider and pumpkin chai. For others, it is a chance to seek fright.

Part of October's allure comes from our attraction to nostalgia. When I think of Halloween and fall, I think of choosing costumes, eating candy, playing outside, and contentment. In particular, I recall wearing a turtle costume that was meant for a golden retriever.

But, these are just my fond memories. I am certain that all of you have your own. Perhaps they occurred while trick-or-treating. Or, maybe they are the terrors of a ten-year-old alone in the Haunted Castle. Either way, many share a love for October and its holiday. Halloween, like most celebrations, is a chance for excitement, for a release of worries and stress. While some dislike its grandeur or excessive sugar-consumption, I call upon you to take part in the fun. Even if this simply means watching "Hocus Pocus" or wearing the color orange. Or, wear a costume to school and take part in Inktober.

In this issue of the Spartana, many articles revolve around Halloween. Thus, this too can be your infusion of spook. For instance, Halloween monsters' personality tests and original scary stories are up for discovery. Or, you can look at even more frightening realities than Halloween: the Church of Scientology and political debates. Whatever you choose, enjoy the festivities and the Spartana.

Claire Elliott

THE MANIACAL LAUGH OF OLLIE, AFTER TRICKING ME INTO GIVING HIM MILK

MOUSE GRAVEYARD

SPARTAN SPIRIT

written and illustrated by
JASMINE BARNES

THE GHOSTS OF HOMESTEAD-#1

Authors Note

Hello to all that read this! I'm excited to do comic strips for the Spartana! I thought that it would be fun to sum up everyday mishaps or events by making ghost that help or hinder students' day.

MEET THE

Isabella Ambrose (10)

Isabella traditionally goes camping at the Chain 'O Lakes campgrounds with her aunt and family every fall. While there, she looks forward to painting and decorating pumpkins, as well as trick-or-treating on the campgrounds. While Isabella is not, admittedly, a candy connoisseur, she is fond of Halloween-themed Oreos. Isabella contends that milk's favorite cookie tastes better when the filling is a festive orange. In addition, her favored punctuation mark is the semicolon.

Sam Cole (10)

When asked what part he most likes about Halloween, Sam succinctly replies, "All of it." This year in particular, he looks forward to dressing up in a "really badly made cardboard robot suit." He also enjoys trick-or-treating and handing out candy to fellow trick-or-treaters. His favorite Halloween treat is Reese's peanut butter cups (and his favorite punctuation mark is a set of closed parentheses).

Kaiya Cronkhite (10)

Kaiya always looks forward to going apple picking with family. "One time, in second or third grade, I went with my best friend," Kaiya said. She especially loves drinking apple cider from the gallon after their visit to the orchard. Other than savoring apple cider, Kaiya also adores the almond, coconut, and milk chocolate confection of Almond Joy after trick-or-treating. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, her favorite punctuation mark is the question mark.

Claire Elliott (12)

"Part of the reason I like fall is because it portrays that decay is inevitable," Claire said. Amid this season of decay, she is fond of catching falling leaves and hearing the 'crunch' of fallen leaves. Another of her autumn rituals is admiring a tree outside her house that, "when the wind blows, looks like it's raining gold." She also savors Twix, Gobstoppers and Kit-Kats for their distinct Halloween taste. Additionally, Claire values the em dash for its explanatory and emphatic nature. "I had to tell myself to stop using it in essays," she said.

STAFF

written and designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

Thomas Hill (11)

Thomas recalls that, every Halloween, he would decorate his driveway with chalk "to make it more fun for trick-or-treaters." One year, he laboriously created a Hawaiian-themed driveway decoration featuring tropical flowers. Thomas prefers a Hershey's bar as a Halloween treat. Much like his choice of a chocolate bar, the semicolon—Thomas's pick of punctuation marks—is, he contends, "very underappreciated."

Kate Hutner (12)

As part of her autumnal ritual, Kate goes apple picking with family at Cook's Orchard. She especially savors the orchard's apple cider, and also loves a crisp candy apple. "Candy apples are so good!" Kate said. In past years, her family "used to always throw Halloween parties" for friends and family before their annual apple-picking tradition. Kate additionally values a well-used question mark.

Luke Land (10)

Every fall, Luke and his family visit his aunt in downtown Fort Wayne, where he enjoys walking around to see the holiday decorations. Later in the year, he looks forward to viewing the cheery Christmas decor of one downtown home, whose resident dresses up as Santa and hands out candy canes. Luke's number one Halloween candy is the ever popular Reese's peanut butter cup. His favored punctuation mark, however, is a much more controversial preference: the Oxford comma.

Isaac Mendez-Lopez (10)

Isaac remembers that, in elementary school, he and his brothers would rake and jump on a pile of leaves in front of their grandma's house. Falling into the leaf pile "when we were done was soft and comfy," Isaac said. On Halloween, he looks forward to snacking on Twix bars—the left or the right bar, depending on "whichever I grab first." Isaac also gravitates towards the em dash for its sophistication.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF SHUTTERSHOCK AND MADELINE PHUONG

Alessia Passoni (10)

Although Alessia's preferred punctuation mark is still in limbo, she does like Kit-Kats, Twix bars or "anything chocolate." Alessia fondly remembers coordinating her and her siblings' trick-or-treating costumes with their grandma. "My siblings dressed up as Thing 1 and Thing 2 one year, so that was funny," she said. Alessia recalls a particular house surrounded by decorative flying bats. "As a kid, I'm like, oh my gosh, I'm going to die!" Alessia said.

Madeline Phuong (11)

Madeline warmly recalls trick-or-treating with her brother and friends every Halloween, learning the art of negotiation when trading candy afterwards. "My family also used to go to Greenfield Village," Madeline said. "We always listened to a storyteller narrate Edgar Allen Poe's 'A Tell-Tale Heart.'" She also values jumping into a pile of leaves, savoring a cup of hot apple cider and appreciating a well-placed em dash.

Elaina Schilt (10)

Elaina's favorite fall ritual is carving pumpkins with her family and friends. She also takes pleasure in choosing her costume and dressing up to go tricking-or-treating on Halloween. Classic strawberry Twizzlers are her go-to Halloween treat after trick-or-treating. Additionally, Elaina appreciates the simple emphasis of exclamation marks. "It's a good display of emotion," she said.

Hannah Shaw (11)

Hannah unexpectedly found one of her favorite fall treats, pumpkin ice cream, at the annual Johnny Appleseed festival. "It sounds disgusting, but is actually good," Hannah said. "I remember buying a cup to share with someone because I thought it was going to be nasty, but it was delectable and I ended up buying more." Hannah enjoys both the left and right Twix bars on Halloween. Additionally, her preferred punctuation mark is, curiously, a question mark.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK AND MADELINE PHUONG

Gaia Splendore (11)

Gaia treasures spending time with family and friends every Halloween. "My sister's birthday is on Halloween," Gaia said. "My mom forces me to make Halloween baked goods, but it's fun!" She also goes trick-or-treating with friends. Last year, they went as Monster High characters and ended up playing basketball until 3 am. Gaia loves caramel apple lollipops, which, for a period of time, were considered contraband in her household. Moreover, she prefers two question marks for the subtle sense of annoyance they convey.

Katelyn Styborski (11)

"When I was younger, my dad used to take all the leaves in the backyard, and my brother and I would help rake them onto a tarp," Katelyn said. From there, they would gleefully jump onto the pile of leaves and their dad would drag them around on the tarp, a delightful sort of fall sledding. On Halloween, Katelyn relishes Kit-Kats after trick-or-treating. Furthermore, her favorite punctuation mark is the period, a versatile and "solid little guy" that can also form ellipses.

Ganga Subramanian (11)

"I *am* one of those people that says take only two pieces of candy," Ganga said. "It's for the public good." As someone who likes handing out candy to trick or treaters, Ganga is familiar with the trends of Halloween costumes. This year, she anticipates and will quite enjoy seeing trick-or-treaters taking on the likeness of Mr. Worldwide. Her preferred Halloween candy is a Twix bar, either the left or the right; her favored punctuation mark is a semicolon.

Kealynn Tunks (10)

Every year, Kealynn gets together with friends to watch quintessential Halloween movies, her favorite being Disney's *Hocus Pocus*. "Last year was really fun because we just hung out and watched movies," Kealynn said. In the fall, she most enjoys her grandma's scrumptious pumpkin pie. Furthermore, Kealynn appreciates the suspense of ellipses during all seasons of the year

THE OFFICIAL* RANKING OF Halloween Candy

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

*As voted on by the Spartana spooktackular staff

Classic Candy Bars:

1. KitKats
2. Twix
3. Snickers
4. 3 Musketeers
5. Reese's
6. Milky Ways
7. Butterfingers

Chewy Candy and Gummies:

1. Sour Patch Kids
2. Starbursts
3. Swedish Fish
4. Dots
5. Laffy Taffy
6. Twizzlers
7. Tootsie Rolls

Other Halloween Favorites:

1. M&Ms
2. Skittles
3. Whoppers
4. Candy Corn
5. Lemonheads
6. Caramel Apple Pops
7. Nerds

Graphics Courtesy of Canva

PLAYLIST

A Monster Mashup

A halloween-themed playlist for your fright night.

kate.hutner • 30 songs, 2 hr 10 min

More availble on Spotify

Custom order

#	TITLE	ALBUM	DATE ADDED	
1	Psycho Killer - 2005 Remas... Talking Heads	Talking Heads '77 (Deluxe V...	1 day ago	4:21
2	Everyday Is Halloween Ministry	Very Best of Fixes & Remixes	1 day ago	6:25
3	Little Dark Age MGMT	Little Dark Age	1 day ago	5:00
4	Scary Monsters (And Super ... David Bowie	Scary Monsters	1 day ago	5:13
5	Maneater Daryl Hall & John Oates	The Essential Daryl Hall & J...	1 day ago	4:32
6	Devil Woman Cliff Richard	40 Golden Greats	1 day ago	3:35
7	Creep E Radiohead	Pablo Honey	1 day ago	3:59
8	Voodoo Child (Slight Return) Jimi Hendrix	Experience Hendrix: The B...	1 day ago	5:12
9	The Addams Family The City of Prague Philharmonic...	100 Greatest TV Themes	1 day ago	2:20
10	Feed My Frankenstein Alice Cooper	Playlist: The Very Best Of Al...	1 day ago	4:45
11	(Don't Fear) The Reaper Blue Öyster Cult	The Essential Blue Öyster C...	1 day ago	5:09
12	I Put A Spell On You Creedence Clearwater Revival	Creedence Clearwater Revi...	1 day ago	4:32
13	I Eat Cannibals Toto Coelo	New Years New Wave Part...	1 day ago	3:47
14	Nemesis (Oil & Gold) (In the... Original Backing Tracks	Karaoke Hits: Alternative R...	1 day ago	3:45
15	Barracuda Heart	Little Queen	1 day ago	4:22

The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser

To my dear brothers:

Chapter Three: The Chat

written and illustrated by
KATELYN STYBORSKI
designed by Thomas Hill

Jolean jumped up, brandishing her basket full of strawberries like a baseball bat.

"Alright, no more kidding around. Who are you? Come out and fight me like a girl!"

A melodic giggling sounded from within her pocket. "Don't be afraid. Its just me, your eraser."

"Don't tell lies." Jolean's voice quivered. "Erasers can't talk."

"Sure they can. I'm doing it right now."

"AAGH-!" Jolean tore the apron from around her neck, tossing it into the dirt. "Is this some kind of prank? Who's there? I'm not scared of you!" Her face was scrunched into a determined glare. "Well? Answer me!"

Something shot out of her apron pocket, causing her to tumble over backwards. A bright pink light blinded her, bouncing off the leaves of the strawberry plants. Her eraser was floating above her, its doodled face stretched into a wide smile.

"Hi! My name is-"

POW!

Spinning around in the air, the eraser reeled from the impact from Jolean's basket. Finally, it steadied itself.

"Whadja do that for?" It asked with an uneasy smile.

"Y- you can talk." Jolean slowly lowered her basket of strawberries.

"Sure can!" The eraser did a loop-the-loop in the air.

"And you can float."

"Yup."

Jolean cautiously reached out to the eraser. It lowered itself to rest in her cupped palms. She studied it for a moment, neither of them saying anything.

"What are you?" She whispered, in awe.

"I'm so glad you asked! I'm a poor, handsome prince who got turned into an eraser by an evil witch! And now the only thing that can save me is a strawberry tart from a true friend." The eraser's sketched eyes twinkled.

Jolean blinked.

"Nah, I'm just kidding. My name's Smiley. Nice to meet'cha!" Jolean got the feeling he'd shake her hand if he had any.

"Hi, Smiley. I'm Jolean."

A curious expression sat on their faces; they felt lighter, as though some weight had been lifted off their shoulders (or, edges, in the eraser's case.)

"So," Jolean started, "how can you-"

"Hey, I've got an idea!" Smiley interrupted, "Why don't we go back to your house. You can teach me how to make those yummy tarts, like you were saying."

Jolean giggled. "Alright. Let's do it!"

The two strangers sat at the table, munching on Jolean's homemade strawberry sweet tarts. Strawberry jam dripped off of the eraser from when he fell into the pot while Jolean was cooking. The girl stared at him over her tart. "Okay, now I'm really confused."

Smiley looked up at her.

"How on earth can you eat?! You have a doodled mouth, doodled eyes, and- and- you're an eraser!"

Gulping, Smiley finished his sweet tart. "Oh...that."

She narrowed her eyes, "Be honest this time. What are you, really?"

"I'm an eraser." Smiley mumbled.

"You gotta be more than that! There was a- a monster! trying to get you, and you can talk, and float, and eat, and-" She slammed her hand on the table. "I know what you are. You're magic!" Instantly, she slapped her hands over her mouth.

Smiley sighed, "I am."

Jolean whipped her head around, terror on her face as she strained to look out the window. She leaned in towards Smiley. "You know there isn't supposed to be magic anymore. Smiley! You're probably the last magical thing out there! Other than that creature that tried to kidnap you."

"That creature?"

"Yeah, that thing that tried to take you. That's magic, too, right?"

"Don't worry about that, Jolean."

"Smiley...."

"I don't even know what it is."

"You don't know? But you're magic! Its magic. Doesn't that mean you're from the same place?" Jolean looked at him earnestly.

Smiley gave her a look. "Not all magical creatures know each other."

Jolean looked away, scratching a bug bite on her thigh. "Well," she hesitated, flicking dirt off her leg. "If you really don't know."

"What about you?" The eraser asked innocently. "What are you doing here all alone?"

Jolean pouted, taking a sip from her cup. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You know, like your parents. Your siblings. Don't you have a family?"

Jolean set her cup down carefully, looking at her reflection in the water. "I don't have a family. It's just me."

They were quiet. Smiley lightly leaned against her arm. "And me."

"And you?"

"I can be your family, if you want."

Jolean chewed on her lip. "I..." She looked away from him. "I don't want a family."

Smiley looked up at her.

"But," Jolean continued with a thoughtful smile. "I could use a friend."

Smiley beamed. "Sounds perfect."

The two leaned together in the fading evening light, enjoying the last of the sweet tarts - strangers no more.

Special Note- Hi friends! I'm so glad that you're back for another chapter of The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser. However, some of you might feel like you've missed a part of the story (probably because you have). You see, even numbered chapters (like Chapter Two) are exclusively available on the Spartana's website. Be sure to pop on over to www.hhsspartana.com to check out Chapter Two and catch up on previous chapters as well. And as always, feel free to email me (katelyn.styborski@students.sacs.k12.in.us) with your thoughts, ideas, theories, and more. You can even leave a comment on the online chapters, so others can see exactly what you think (comments are subject to review though, so be respectful please- criticism must be kind!). That's all from me, Jolean, and Smiley for now, so toodles!

THE SPARTANA
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Like the content you see here? Check out hhsspartana.com for more exclusive online stories and columns. Plus, catch up on our past issues and articles. Our Spartana staff is dedicated to making our content available digitally and accessible to everyone, so keep an eye on the website as the newest part of the Spartana family.

FALL FOODS

written and designed by
KEALYNN TUNKS

Fall is here and we are ready! Whether it's putting out your favorite fall and halloween decorations, visiting friends and family, or making the best food, there's something for everyone to enjoy this time of year.

One thing we all love about this time of year is the food; there are tons of recipes to enjoy and indulge in. "My favorite fall food is probably pumpkin pie. My mom makes it for me every year!" said Kendal Opal (11), a student attending Homestead. Indeed, pumpkin pie is a classic that tons of families enjoy every year without fail.

"There's a family farm that makes pumpkin spice ice cream, and I eat it every single year when I go to the pumpkin patch," said Sierrah Colbourn (11). Her traditions have gone on for 4 years now!

When you aren't up to the task of making your own fall treats, there's many places that can supply you with the fall foods of your dreams. Starbucks is an excellent option if you are looking for quick service, offering good drinks and festive fall foods to go along with it. Some very popular drinks include the classic pumpkin spice latte, the pumpkin cream cold brew and apple crisp macchiato. The pumpkin loaf also lives up to the Starbucks name: a slice of gently spiced bread with an elegant pumpkin flavor.

Dunkin' Donuts is a strong competitor with their signature pumpkin spice latte, pumpkin spice coffee and pumpkin cream cold brew, not to mention their assortment of pumpkin flavored muffins and donuts. Although Dunkin' has less drink options than Starbucks that doesn't mean that they are any less flavorsome.

Mocha Lounge is a great place to get your fill of pumpkin spice locally. Located on Covington road, Mocha Lounge is also putting out their share of pumpkin flavored treats! There is a dutch apple chai, pumpkin white mocha and a s'mores mocha. As their workers attest, all are popular. Barista Ally Lantz (12), "recommends a hot pumpkin spice latte made with oat milk... and the pumpkin bread is amazing." They also occasionally have pumpkin bars and pie.

RECIPES TO TRY AT HOME!

PUMPKIN COOKIES

Prep time: 20 minutes
Bake time: 10 minutes
Makes: 30 cookies

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons Cornstarch
½ teaspoon Cream of tartar
¾ teaspoon Baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons Cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
⅛ teaspoon ground cloves
¾ cup unsalted butter (softened to room temperature)
¾ cup packed brown sugar
½ cup granulated sugar
1 large egg
2 teaspoons vanilla
½ cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)

Cinnamon sugar coating:

¼ cup granulated sugar
1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon

1. Whisk together the flour, cornstarch, cream of tartar, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ground cloves in a large bowl.
2. In a separate large bowl beat together the butter and sugars with a mixer until fluffy. Turn the mixer down to a lower speed and beat in the egg, vanilla, and pumpkin.
3. Slowly incorporate the flour mixture - the dough will be very sticky
4. Once fully incorporated, cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
5. When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350°F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
6. In a small bowl whisk together the sugar and cinnamon for the coating
7. Form the dough into balls of about 1.5 tablespoons in size, then roll in the cinnamon sugar coating, flatten them slightly and place onto the baking sheet
8. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until the tops look just set.

Justsotasty.com

PUMPKIN CUPCAKES

Prep time: 30 minutes
Bake time: 18 minutes
Makes: 18 cupcakes

Ingredients

1 ½ cups all purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
½ teaspoon ginger powder
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
1/3 cup vegetable oil
¾ cup white sugar
½ cup brown sugar
2 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
¾ cup pure pumpkin
1/3 cup milk

Cinnamon cream cheese frosting:

2/3 cup unsalted butter
6 oz. cream cheese
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3- 3.5 cups powdered sugar
1-2 tablespoons cream (if needed)

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line the muffin pans with muffin papers, you will end up with 18 cupcakes
2. In a medium bowl whisk together the flour, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, baking powder, baking soda and salt
3. In a separate large bowl beat together the oil, sugars, eggs and vanilla extract with an electric mixer until no lumps remain
4. Mix in the pumpkin
5. With the mixer on lower speed, gradually mix in the flour mixture alternating with the milk
6. Spoon the batter into the muffin tins and place in the open for 16-19 minutes. When the tops look done, insert a toothpick and if it comes out clean they are ready.

Cream cheese frosting

1. In a large bowl beat the butter with an electric mixer until fluffy - about two minutes - then beat in the cream cheese
2. Add the cinnamon and vanilla extract
3. Beat in the powdered sugar about 1 cup at a time, if the frosting sees too thick beat in the whipping cream 1 tablespoon at a time
4. Frost the cooled cupcakes using a flat knife of

HALLOWEEN HISTORY: COSTUMES THROUGH THE DECADES

written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE

Since the beginning of the Halloween holiday in the 18th century, costumes have been the forefront of the festivities. Whether you make your own homemade costume or buy one from a store, Halloween has always been a great time for creativity and self-expression.

1900s

In the 1900s, you could not buy Halloween costumes from stores. (Actually, you couldn't buy boxed Halloween costumes until the 30's.) Costumes were all homemade. Witches, cats, and aprons were all very common during this time.

1910-20s

Nothing much changed from 1900 to 1920. The Dennison Paper Company, the main supplier of paper masks during the early 1900s, was known for their Halloween crepe paper masks. These masks were only meant to be worn once.

1930s

The 1930's brought about big changes for Halloween costumes. For the first time, people could buy boxed Halloween costumes from stores, but the costumes were costly.Mickey Mouse costumes were very popular among all ages.

1940-50s

Mass produced boxed costumes were very popular in the 1940s and 1950s. From here on out, people saw a huge increase in pop culture costumes due to the increase of TV's in homes. Pop culture costumes included Batman and Frankenstein's monster.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: www.history.com/news/halloween-costume-trends-photos

KAIYA CRONKHITE (10) AND HER YOUNGER BROTHER AS TEAM ROCKET

MAKAYLA HENLINE (11), CATHERINE JI (11), JOHANNA FISH (11), OLIVIA MILIMAN (11), AND KATE FOUTCH (11) AS BOB ROSS

CLAIRE ELLIOTT (12)

"When I was in third grade, I was a turtle with a scythe. Not a ninja turtle, but a turtle of death. This was because I wanted to be a turtle and my brother did not want to carry his scythe. Also, my turtle costume was actually for golden retrievers. We could not find anything else…"

1950-60S

The 50s introduced pop culture costumes, and the 60s and 70s reinforced them. The Addams Family, The Beatles, and Barbie were common costumes in the 60s and 70s. Presidential masks made their debut in the 70s, too.

1980S

Popular horror movies in the 80s, including Halloween and Friday the 13th, sparked a new interest in gruesome Halloween costumes. Star Wars had its own influence, too. People of all ages dressed up as Darth Vadar, Princess Leia, and C-3PO.

1990S

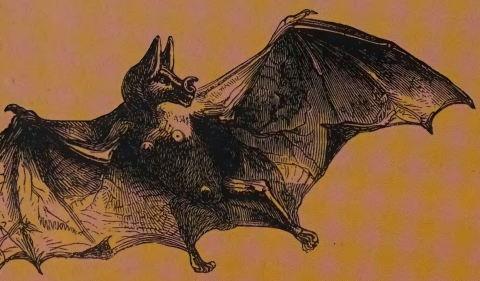
The 90s saw a continuum of pop culture costumes and something new. Brands saw Halloween as a time for marketing. Brand-based Halloween costumes, including McDonalds, Tootsie Rolls, and Lifesavers became popular.

2000S -NOW

Costumes have not changed much from 2000. Pop culture and political costumes continue to fly off the shelves. Disney Princesses, Harry Potter, the Joker, and Ghostbusters have been iconic costumes since their introduction.

HALLOWEEN

A HISTORY

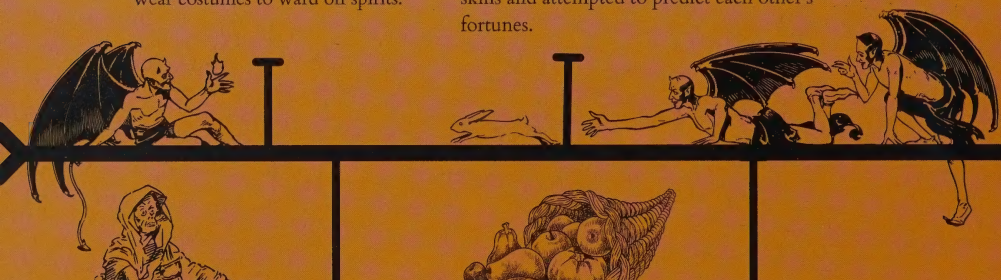


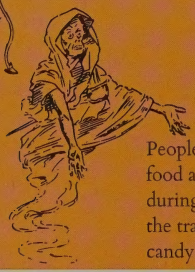
written and designed by
KAIYA CRONKHITE

Halloween originated from the Celtic festival of Samhain which occurred on October 31st, where people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off spirits.

Celtic priests made huge sacred bonfires where people burned crops and sacrificed animals to the Celtic deities. During this event people wore costumes such as animal skins and attempted to predict each other's fortunes.

By the 9th century Christianity had spread to the Celtic lands where it eventually blended with the older traditions. In 1000 A.D the church made November 2nd All Souls' Day, which was a day to honor the dead.





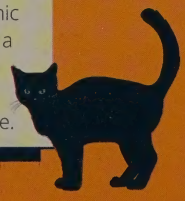
People started setting out food as offerings to spirits during Samhain, thats how the tradition of setting out candy began.

By 43 A.D. The Roman Empire had conquered much of Celtic territory and the new traditions began to merge with the old. One Roman tradition was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol for Pomona is an apple, which brought the festivity of bobbing for apples.

All Soul's Day was similar to Samhain, there were big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes. All Souls' day costumes were saints, angels and devils. All Souls' day was also called All-hallows or All-Hallowmas.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although nobody really knows where the phrase "Trick-Or-Treat" originated, It was firmly embedded in American culture by 1951, when trick or treating was depicted in a Peanuts comic strip. In 1952, Disney released a cartoon called "Trick or Treat" with Donald Duck and his nephews Huey, Duey and Louie.



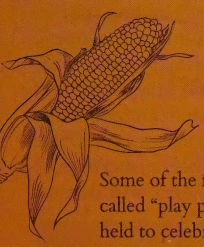
F HALLOWEEN

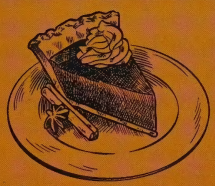
Graphics by Canva

alloween celebration was very limited in
olonial New England because of rigid
otestant beliefs. Halloween however was
ry common in Maryland and the
uthern colonies. All the beliefs and
stoms of different European ethnicities
d Native Americans meshed together
d a distinctly American Halloween was
rn.

Decorating Jack-o'-lanterns originated in Ireland, where they would carve large turnips and potatoes. The name jack-o'-lantern actually came from an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack.

Young women believed that on Halloween they could enchant the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn mirrors or apple parings.





Some of the first celebrations were called "play parties" which were events held to celebrate the harvest. Neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance, and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also involved ghost stories and all kinds of mischief making.

Witch hysteria gained strength in Europe during the mid-1400s when many single women, widows and other women on the margins of society were accused and confessed. Often women only confessed under torture and a variety of other wicked behaviors. Most accused were executed and between the years of 1500 and 1660, up to 80,000 suspected witches were executed in Europe.

In Scotland and Ireland young people took part in a tradition called guising where they dressed up in a costume and accepted offerings from various households for doing a song or dance. In the 9th century Celtic lands poor people would visit houses of weather families and receive pastries called soul cakes in exchange for promising to pray from the owner of the home's dead relatives. This was called souling.

A Girl's Guide to SCIENT

She's beauty; she's grace; she's gonna tell you that you have a variety of mental problems after taking a personality quiz, take your money to fix said problems, and then force you to cut off all your friends and family in the hopes that you will achieve a greater state. Welcome to Scientology, started by a science fiction writer in the 1950s. More recently, however, a Tik-

Function

First and foremost: what even is Scientology? According to Scientology themselves, they define it as "a religion that offers a precise path leading to a complete and certain understanding of one's true spiritual nature and one's relationship to self, family, groups, Mankind, all life forms, the material universe, the spiritual universe and the Supreme Being" on their website. What makes them seperate from most religions, is they ask faith not for faith's sake alone, but through observation and scientific processes Scientology can earn your faith. They argue that L. Ron Hubbard has come up with practices and procedures, such as The Tone Scale, that can help humans get more in touch with their spirituality and they apply to everybody. No exceptions. This is a common thread throughout the website: the assertion that everything Scientology preaches applies to all human.

However, at its core, Scientology's most basic belief is that the human mind is affected by past trauma, to the point where it hurts logical thinking processes. This trauma can be of any scale and may not even be something that a person remembers. Only through auditing sessions and going to worship services can Scientology help the vulnerable and the weak regain control of their lives. For context, these auditing sessions and worship services cost thousands of dollars, and have the potential to drain members dry of their funds. This is also one of the tenets of Dianetics, a set of beliefs and practices having to do with the relationship between mind and body. Hubbard also considered it to be a form of psychiatry, although most licensed psychologists have rejected Dianetics.

In addition to Dianetics, Scientology has a system of ethics, entirely based on reason. It is defined as the decisions that a person makes to survive. The organization is staunchly against drug use, mental illness, and homosexuality, and asserts that through their courses and auditing sessions one can rid themselves of earthly afflictions and reach a state of clarity. "Going clear" means that a person has reached a point where their mind is completely in control of analytical actions, and is no longer affected by past trauma. In Scientology, there is one group of people that are particularly troublesome called suppressive persons, and they dis-

written and designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN & HANNAH SHAW

OLOGY!

Tok with several famous Internet personalities photographed wearing a necklace with the Scientology logo has been making the rounds. This has the general populace wondering, what is scientology and where can I join? We're here to give you the juicy details and hopefully dissuade you from doing the second thing.

suade non-suppressive persons from interacting with them. Suppressive persons make up 2.5% of the population, and are known for hindering Scientology's efforts to spread their good will. If you're especially lucky, you are a part of that 2.5%. There are other more outlandish beliefs, like the dictator of the "Galactic Confederacy" Xenu arriving at Earth nearly 75 million years ago, or that Thetans, immortal spirits that affect human wellbeing, however, it would take 75 million years to explain all of them.

History

The man, the myth, the legend himself, Ron L. Hubbard, one of the most infamous Pisces to ever walk the Earth, was born one fateful day in 1911. And ever since, the world has suffered for it. His writing career, perhaps the second most infamous thing about the man, began once he dropped out of college. Hubbard wrote mainly science fiction which eventually inspired the religion he would go onto create. But before he became one of the most infamous people in history, he would join the Navy.

As a member of the military, Hubbard would go on to win several medals and become embroiled in the heat of several battles. Among his accomplishments, he would sink two Japanese subs and command a corvette, a small warship. He was discharged honorably, wounded in battle.

This would be admirable and all, if it were not for the fact that Hubbard lied about all of it. Everything he did in the military in order to look better in the eyes of his church. In fact, Hubbard's military service was spent in the U.S., and the two Japanese subs he sunk turned out to be a log and some underwater magnetic rocks. He was discharged once he accidentally bombed a small Mexican island.

Afterwards, he would join a cult (Ordo Templi Orientis) with incredibly questionable practices and run off with his rocket engineer friend's girlfriend. Sara Northrup was thirteen years his junior. Once they got married, and had a kid, Hubbard would sit down to write the book that would become the basis for Scientology.

Hubbard recounted to his wife that the only way to make good money was to use religion, especially since the government would not be able to take it away from you in the form of taxes. He and his wife would have a relatively rocky relationship, until they divorced and his wife took custody of his daughter. Hubbard cleared out all of the money in their joint account, leaving his wife with no money to take care of their child.

Once Dianetics no longer made enough money to pay the bills, Hubbard began to create a set of practices from the novel, actually making a religion from it. By the late 1960s, the government began to get suspicious. The IRS started to investigate him for tax evasion, and Hubbard, being the ethical and benevelovent religious leader that religious leaders are known to be, high-tailed it out of the U.S. for international waters. Before living out his last years on a yacht in hiding, he created the Sea Organization, a group that requires its members to sign a contract for a billion years.

By the time Hubbard had passed away from his stroke, another had already taken up the mantle as the ecclestical leader of Scientology. David Miscavige, considered to be a child prodigy, had become a professional auditor at the age of 12. From there, he began his ascent to the top. Along the way, he met Shelly Miscavige, his future wife, on the high seas at the Sea Organization. They would have a strange relationship, as ex-members would describe their relationship as being devoid of any affection, even if Shelly Miscavige acted as the poster wife of Scientology. Eventually, Shelly would disappear from the public eye entirely in 2007. David Miscavige has the public persona of being charismatic and a loyal friend to Scientology, but behind the scenes he has a giant temper. Much like his predecessor, the IRS would keep a strong eye out for him.

Where It's at Today

Now you know about the hearty sixty-eight years Scientoloy has under its belt, but what about the new wave of this church shaped pyramid-scheme. As of late, the church has immersed itself in the modern day by updating their website. I would love to tell you that the site is horribly put together and inefficient, but in reality it was impressively the opposite. It's an easy to use site, aside from the search bar that doesn't actually work, with lots of pretty graphics and giant fonts. Finding information is not particularly difficult and it advertises the 'best' parts of Scientology. However, staying true to their roots, Scientology continues to take irrational amounts of money from their followers in the form of online courses and advertisements around every corner.

The Church of Scientology has also taken COVID-19 on in the most ominous and vague way possible by using "the world's most powerful decontamination solution" along with a collage of photos that look like they were pulled from a dystopian young-adult novel. The actual ingredients of this decontaminant are never openly specified so the reliability is questionable. They also offer pamphlets about avoiding COVID-19 that are filled with what I would consider to be common knowledge like the importance of washing your hands.

In general, the church continues to increase in size with new churches popping up everywhere and anywhere despite how much information is out there about Scientologys' cultish and scummy ways. Predictably, their hotspots are places like California and New York. It's also an effort to attract celebrities to their religion, so that their money can fuel its practices and their endorsements to gain more followers. Tom Cruise is one of the more famous examples, considering how much he has been in the news over the past two decades for shady business related to Scientology. Interestingly enough, Cruise wanted to be a priest when he was younger.

Why?

So if Scientology is fairly obviously a cult, how do they continue to gain so many members? This is in part because of who the group caters to. Their demographic involves those with severe trauma and mental illness along with recovering drug addicts and past criminals. They advertise a world in which your past experiences, the traumatic ones in particular, can be essentially deleted from your memory. Scientologists believe that your actions are subconsciously affected by everything that has ever happened to you, including things that happen pre-birth. If this is their propaganda, then of course someone with a troubled past would turn to Scientology for a chance at a better life.

If knowing that you can erase all trauma from your life is not enough, the Scientology website heavily prompts anti-drug and criminal reform plans along with links to mental health help. So if ex-drug addicts and past criminals are not already convinced by the inciting chance to, in a way, change their own past, maybe they will be attracted to the chance to change their future.

But surely not every Scientologist has a past with crime or drugs, right? That's where the personality test comes in. Before you even step foot into a church of Scientology you are asked to take a two-hundred question personality test called the Oxford Capacity Analysis to assess the areas in your life that require the help of their church. These test questions range from fairly standard questions like "Do others push you around?" or "Do people enjoy being in your company?" to the more odd "Could you allow someone to finish those final two words in a crossword puzzle without interfering?".

After finishing this test, you receive a graph that you must set up an appointment at a church to have

analyzed, although it is extremely easy to look up how to analyse it yourself. The results will most likely indicate that you have multiple areas requiring immediate attention. Anyone seriously taking a Scientology personality test is probably not in the right state of mind to realize the absurdness of these results, especially when the church readily offers up plenty of ways to 'cure' these problem areas, provided that you can pay them to do so.

The way that they advertise themselves makes it easy for them to pull in particularly vulnerable people. The appeal is there and anyone could fall victim.

Personal Dive

What better way to experience everything that Scientology has to offer than by partaking in propaganda. We decided to take the personality test to see what we needed to better ourselves and if we could benefit from Scientology.

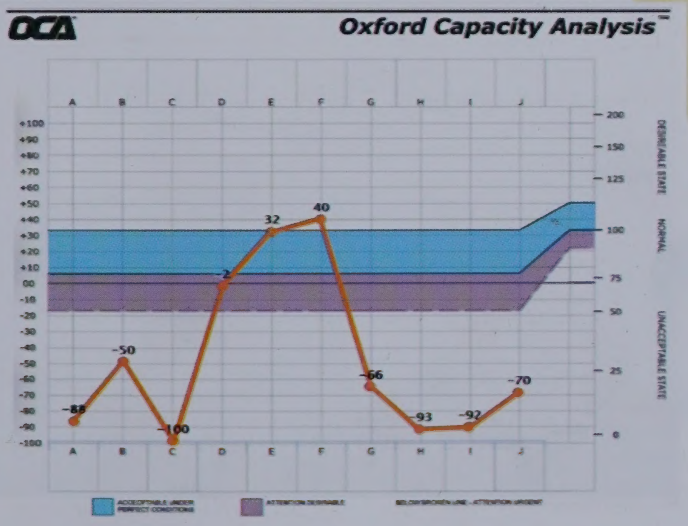
We sat down on one fine Wednesday morning in Publications, after having created a fake email and identity (we're a Mexican man named Max Ellen), armed with nothing but one computer prepared to take on an incredibly tedious personality quiz. I (Ganga) was sitting on a pink chair that was way too close to the floor and way too far from the table. Seemingly an irrelevant detail, however it did make the quiz far more painful. The questions themselves were not inherently difficult, but the complexity came from its simplicity. We were left wondering: why? Why are we doing this? What purpose does this serve? But dear reader, we kept going for one simple reason: to inform the general public.

Halfway through we took a well-deserved break to eat some pumpkin cookies made by a fellow staff member. They were really good. Thanks Elaina. Unfortunately, we had to continue the personality quiz, so back to the pink chair I (Ganga) go. It felt like we were picking the maybe option, a little too much, but it perfectly encapsulated our answers and collective confusion. Upon finishing the quiz, we ate some more pumpkin cookies. I (Hannah) need the recipe. It took a few minutes for Scientology to load our results, but once they did, we were shell-shocked. Absolutely appalled. Are we (Hannah and Ganga) this bad of a person? Scientology wanted us to go into one of their centers, but being the responsible people we were, we considered this to be a bad idea. Fortunately for us, the Internet exists, and several people have already talked about how to analyze the results at home.

This graph might not mean much to you, but to us it means the world. Upon first glance, one might notice the sheer amount of categories that are below the dark grey area, and the one in it. According to the Oxford Capacity Analysis, we were nervous, depressed, quiet, unstable, uncertain, irresponsible, critical, have a lack of accord, and withdrawn. But on the bright side, we're active and assertive. According to Dianetics, we are in severe need of Scientology. If we were more susceptible people and had not done more than thirty pages of research, we might have gone to a Scientology church ourselves.

Evidently, it seems that it is quite easy to fall into the trap that Scientology sets out for everyone. From here, we could have gone to a Scientology church, have a member tell us what our results mean, and what we could do to mend ourselves. They would inevitably convince us to sign up for some courses to fix our ailments, and to pay for our first auditing session. It is a roller coaster ride that once you get on, it is incredibly tough to get off.

This is where our personal experience with Scientology ends. This is the limit to how far we are willing to go.



PARANORMAL

written and designed by
LUKE LAND

With spooky season coming up, ghost stories, real or true, are going to be popping up. Some scary, some uninteresting. Now I did something scarier than most of these stories, and traveled to Reddit to find some true paranormal stories. 2 users allowed me to share their own experiences for Homestead to read.

GHOST IN MY HOUSE: ONE NIGHT ONLY BY U/RTK4740

This first story takes place in Minneapolis. He was home alone one night and was reading before bed.

For some odd reason, he felt like he was being watched. It wasn't one of those feelings that you get when you're in the dark, but an intense feeling, in a creepy way. He tried to play it off, but he couldn't. He couldn't shake the feeling of being watched off.

He eventually put down his book and just tried to go to sleep. It didn't help. Not only did it not help, but it made the feeling even worse. The feeling wasn't coming from inside his room, but right outside.

It was bothering him so much that he couldn't fall asleep, so he gets up and grabs his softball bat, and searches his whole house, turning on every light and making sure nobody is in the house with him. He eventually gets around the whole house and finds nobody.

He gets back to his room, and tries to see why he is feeling this way. It felt like he was trying to be contacted by a spirit. He calls out multiple times and nothing happens. So he goes back to his book and doesn't fall asleep.

He calls off work the next morning, and later in the day he gets a phone call. It was a doctor who announced the death of one of his friends from college who had tragically passed away the night before, the same night everything had happened. To this day, he believes that his friend from college had tried to get in contact with him for one final time.

https://idre.am/dream-meanings/ghosts/

IN ACTION

FIRST FOREGIN PARANORMAL EXPERIENCE BY U/SINGLE-PERCEPTION660

The second story takes place in Japan while was there in 2016 for the Navy.

Their family has had many paranormal experiences, which get stronger with each generation. They had an apartment with one of hids friends.

One night after drinking and walking home, they stop to stare at a shrine across from they apartment complex. As they are looking at this shrine, they hear their grandfather yell to get away from the shrine. The grandfather had passed away a few years before this story occured.

One day, they were at the apartment alone. While watching TV, and all the hairs on the back of their neck stand up and they instantly go into fight/defensive mode. They see something out of the corner of their eye, so they get up to look down the hallway, and see a Japanese woman in a white dress walk into his room. He grabs a knife and salt and sprints into his room, just to find nobody there. That night, they salt every entrance and exit in the apartment, which is thought to help keep spirits from entering and leaving.

A few weeks later, they have a friend over. Their friend says that a girl is sitting outside of the apartment. They ask the friend to describe the woman. It was the same woman that he saw a few weeks before. They tell their friend to go to the back of the apartment and have them stay the night. Nothing had happened in that apartment since, but many people have stated they have seen the same woman wandering around the outside of the apartment while they had stayed there.

theoccultmuseum.com

And with that, that is the *Paranormal in Action*. Stuff like this happens all over the world, and most people don't or can't share their stories to the world, so thats why their story was passed on to you. Maybe one day, you'll experience your own stories like this, but time will tell.

Unknown Possession

written and designed by
ELAINA SCHILT and ALESSIA PASSONI

The body crashed to the floor, blood oozing from the head. He pulled the knife out of the abdomen, smearing the excess blood on my shirt. He looked at the man's fixed face, watching the life disappear from his eyes as his body went cold. As his thoughts consumed him, he found himself unconsciously mumbling, "I won't stop until it's done."

The ringing of the sirens echoed through the air as the police cars pulled up to the dark and empty house. The blue and red lights flashed across the front of the house. The investigators entered the house. A man lay on the floor, several stab wounds covering his body and a puddle of blood pooled around his head. Garbage littered the floor, empty beer cans sat on the counter, and dozens of cockroaches scurried into the darkness as the beams from the officers' flashlights shined across the living room.

"The body's still warm," observed one of the investigators. "This must've been recent."

"Listen up, everybody," the sheriff thundered, "Look for any signs of evidence around the house. Search it top to bottom!" The team split up and searched the house

"We've searched the entire place, boss," the deputy, Hect, stated to the sheriff. "There's little to no evidence here."

"Thanks, Heck. Whoever did this covered their tracks well," the sheriff observed.

Back at the police station, Sheriff Joe made his way to the conference room, placing his cup of lukewarm coffee on the hard wooden desk. His head pounded as he collapsed.

He woke up and found himself lying on the conference floor. Beep, buzz. His radio was alive. Looking down at his shoe, he noticed a small drop of blood.

"We found another body," the voice on the radio said. "Sheriff, are you there? Over." Words flew over his head like clouds - he was still disoriented. Finally having the motivation to stand, he gathered himself.

"I'm on my way," he grumbled into the radio. "Over and out." Walking to his car, he dropped his keys on the ground in front of his tire. He bent down to pick them up and noticed a husk of corn caught in the wheel. I wonder how that got there, he thought to himself. The tires of his old, beat-up police car skidded over the loose gravel. He followed the dirt road into the field, rows of corn towering over him.

The sun began to sink below the horizon line, and dusk settled over the town. He came up on the ambulance pulled off on the side of the road. He stepped out of the car, his black boots making contact with the cold, damp ground. A stretcher containing a closed body bag was being carried toward the ambulance, its lights flashing.

"So, what happened here?"

"We're not sure, but the time of death is believed to be three hours ago. Same pattern of injury as the last one. We searched the place, but we found no additional evidence," the forensic analyst informed him.

"Wow. This is the second one in two days," the sheriff said shakily. "They've gotta be connected somehow. Well, I guess we'll finish this up in the morning."

The sheriff returned home, kicking off his boots on the front porch, as he closed the rickety screen door behind him. He made his way toward the living room, where he fell onto the old corduroy couch, drifting off to sleep.

He was pulled to the floor, his eyes transforming to a murky gray. He grabbed the razor sharp knife as his force met the innocent victim. One two three. Over and over again. Adrenaline ran through his veins. A scarlet red stuck to his hands. The screams dissipated within seconds, as the life faded from the body.

The sheriff awoke, panting and covered in sweat. Jolting from the couch he dashed to the sink and splashed water on his face. A mixture of fear and shock turned his face ghostly white, as the feeling of guilt began to consume him.

He grabbed his worn leather suitcase and threw it onto the bed. He furiously began pulling clothes from his dresser and shoving them into the bag. He jammed the overstuffed suitcase into the cab of his truck and jumped into the driver's seat. He floored the gas pedal and made his way down the rough old road, as a cloud of dust trailed behind him.

"Sheriff, where are you?" a voice on the radio blurted. "Are you coming in today? We need your help with these cases." Ferociously snagging the radio from his belt, he hurled it out the window. He breathed a sigh of relief.

The gas light on the dash blinked incessantly, forcing him to pull off the highway into the nearest gas station. He frequently glanced around at his surroundings out of paranoia, fearful that someone would eventually have figured out what he had done.

He went into the gas station to pay. The dim lights buzzed overhead; the grimy and rundown building was abandoned other than the young cashier. Reaching into his pocket to grab his wallet, he started towards the counter.

"What pump were you at?" the cashier asked.

"Uhhh, number three," the sheriff replied, handing a wad of cash over the counter. He felt the paralyzing feeling coming over him once again, and he began to run to the gas station bathroom.

He slammed the door behind him, immediately before he collapsed onto the hard, tiled floor.

Where am I? He thought to himself. *What happened?* He awoke sprawled out in the driver's seat of his truck, the wide door open. There was no one in sight.

Feeling disoriented and lost, his mind brought him back to that moment, as he passed out, his head falling onto the steering wheel. He saw himself coming out of the bathroom, his eyes that same disturbing shade of cloudy white. Awakening once again, he looked around in terror. Could it possibly be? he questioned.

Terrified and overrun with apprehension, he rushed back into the gas station. He hesitantly peered over the counter, and there he saw what he had done.

The young, innocent cashier laying face down, motionless, on the floor, blood pooling around the body.

"What have I done!" The sheriff shouted, falling onto his knees. "What have I done!" he repeated over and over again, holding his head in his hands, crying.

He got up slowly, turned toward the counter, and grabbed the phone. He dialled 911.

"Hello. Yes," he started, shakily. "I am reporting a murder off of Highway I-90 at the Marathon gas station."

He hung up the phone, slamming it into the cradle. He bolted for the door, and jumped back into his truck.

He got back onto the highway, and continued his drive, panic was setting in, as he began to wonder what would happen to him. Unsure of what to do or where he was, he just kept going on down the road.

As night crept in, he began searching for a place to pull off for the night. He glanced at the road sign, and saw that there was a motel at the next exit in a few miles. That would do.

He pulled off of the highway and into the motel's parking lot. He put his truck into park and stepped out onto the pavement.

He pulled off of the highway and into the motel's parking lot. He put his truck into park and stepped out onto the pavement. The motel consisted of a single building, rooms lining the two floors.

The dimly lit office was situated toward the front of the building, and through the window he saw a small old woman sitting behind the counter, reading a book. He starts towards the office, his eyes darting around the dark parking lot, empty other than a few other cars.

He grabbed the metal handle and pulled the glass door open. The old lady glanced up at him from over the top of her glasses, a hint of judgement in her eyes.

"How can I help you?" she croaked, annoyed by his presence.

"Just one room please" the sheriff requested politely.

After receiving the key to his room from the old lady, he walked out of the office and back to his truck. He grabbed his old suitcase and hurriedly made his way to the room he was given.

He once again scanned the surrounding area before quickly shutting his room's door behind him; he made sure to lock the door.

The sheriff breathed a sigh of relief as he flopped onto the worn and musty-smelling quilt that laid on the bed.

He kept playing that moment over and over in his head. He couldn't get the image from the gas station out of his head. He decided it would be best to take a hot shower before going to sleep. He started slowly trudging to the bathroom, his socked feet dragging across the dingy, jank carpet of the motel room.

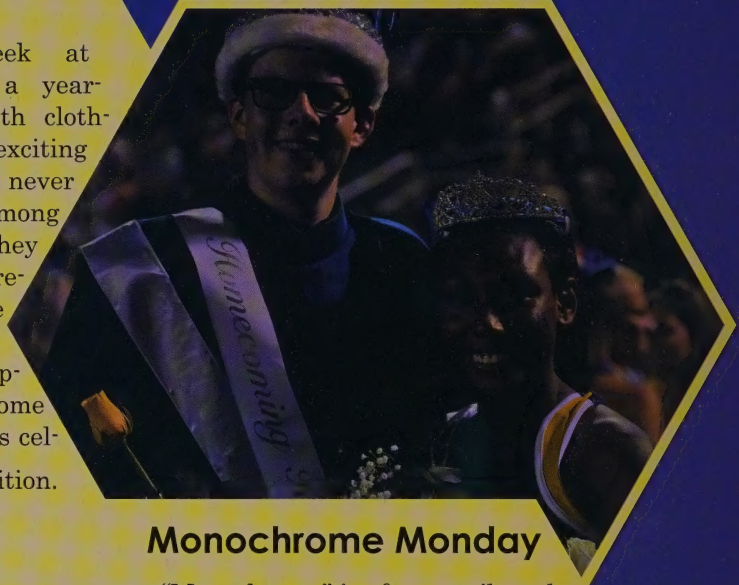
Suddenly, he began to feel dizzy. He staggered to the counter, where he grabbed on, hoping to regain some of his balance. *Will I ever be normal again?* He wondered. *Why is this happening to me?* He collapsed, it all went black.

Graphics from Canva

Homecoming Week In Review

written and designed by
SAM COLE and ISAAC MENDEZ-LOPEZ

HOMECOMING KING BRANDT IRVIN (12) AND QUEEN MIKEL ALSTON (12)



Homecoming week at Homestead is a yearly event complete with clothing-themed days and an exciting football game. The week never fails to spur excitement among students of Homestead as they have a chance to express their creative tastes and show their pride both for their school and for each other. This year has been no exception. In this issue, we review some of the highlights of this year's celebration of the annual tradition.

Monochrome Monday

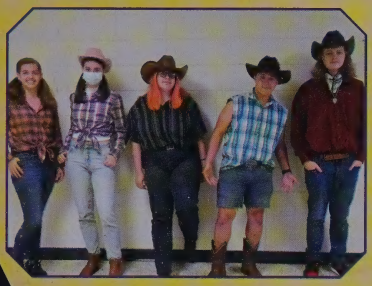
"Monochrome" is often attributed to dull, bland colors. Despite this, the halls were full of colorful clothing and bright accessories. "Dull and bland?" Students this day were anything but.

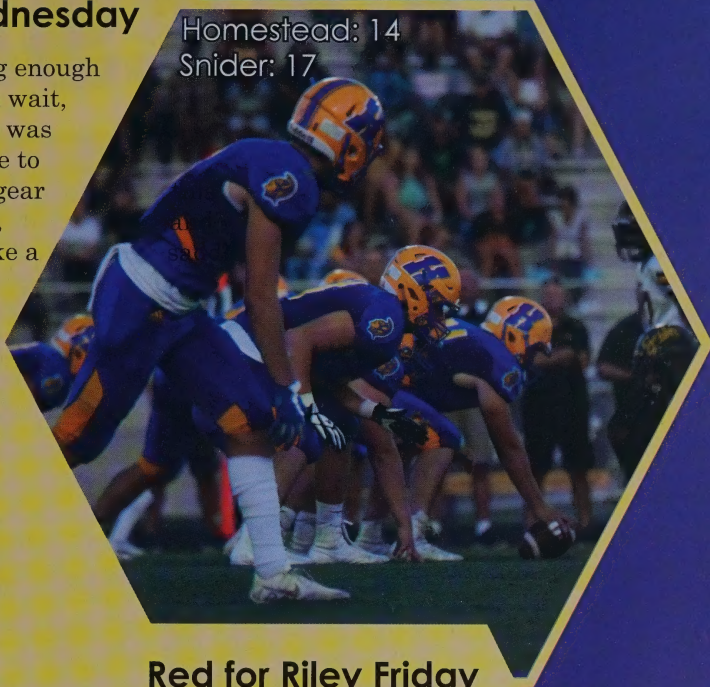
Squad Tuesday

Today, friend groups showed their pride with coordianted uniforms and accessories. Squads wearing matching clothes of all kinds, ranging from carefully constructed cosplays of cartoon characters to simply wearing the same colored t-shirt, strutted together in unison through the halls.

Western Wednesday

"This school ain't big enough for the two of us..." oh wait, yes it is! In fact, there's was room enough for everyone to wear their best wild west gear wednesday. Hats, bandanas, denim hung from students like a on a horse. Yee-haw!





Throwback Thursday

There was plenty of de-min jackets, vintage band shirts, bell-bottom pants and even someone dressed as Jesus.

Red for Riley Friday

Many were showing their Riley pride on Friday, with many different shades of red showing up. Students at school and at the football game that night wore red shirts, shoes, hats, wristbands, and makeup to show their support for Riley Children's Hospital.

Let's Talk

The Conservative Moment.

Let's talk politics. Three small words that strike fear into most kids and, frankly, most adults as well—specifically, the conservative ones. In today's deeply divided and hyper-sensitive nation, saying the wrong thing can get you canceled, ostracized, or even fired. This threat has led conservatives to become silent and reserved, and as a result, conservatives are losing. Even worse, kids have no interest in politics because they believe it doesn't affect them. The lack of interest in politics means that my generation is receiving their political influence not through the news, but through culture—and conservatives have lost the culture war badly.

After that first paragraph, I'm sure I've already lost a lot of readers. But for those who are still here, let's discuss why politics matter and why they should matter to people of all ages and generations, from Gen Z to Boomers. In simple terms, politics matter because they shape every facet of our lives. Every decision made at all levels of government—local, state, and federal—has an impact on your life. As Allie Beth Stuckey says, "Politics matter because policies matter because people matter." Every policy passed affects people and those policies are rooted in politics.

So, why should teenagers be interested in politics when they can't even vote? Because we are the most influential generation right now. We're on the cusp of voting and will make up larger percentages of eligible voters in 2022, 2024, and beyond than ever before. It's important to know where you stand on important issues before Election Day arrives. Additionally, we have huge influence on social media, much greater than any generation before. We can more effectively communicate with and influence people who can vote than any other generation. We grew up with technology and we know how to use it to promote ourselves—so why not share and defend our beliefs as well?

Social media isn't the only avenue to get involved either- you can join an advocacy group (like Students for Life or Turning Point USA), help local candidates by campaigning for them, or even attend events, marches, or protests in support of your cause. There are national and state marches put on by a variety of groups for a variety of causes, including the March for Life in January. These are all ways that you can be involved and express your beliefs in a positive way.

That brings us to the fear that many conservatives feel nowadays, which discourages them from standing for their values and beliefs. Speaking up will most definitely lead to name calling and social consequences, which only complicates the already difficult teenage years. But there's value in learning to defend your opinions. If we can't even stand up to our peers and colleagues, how do we expect to stand up to people who intend us real harm? Conservatives must become comfortable with defending our values. The Left has no problem pushing their worldview, and neither should we. This is the conservative moment, our opportunity to push back and speak out.

And that's why I've started this column. Every week, a new article will be released on the Spartana's website (www.hhsspartana.com) under the Let's Talk Politics column. It's time for conservatives to take back culture and to stand up for what we believe in. As the Teen Conservative, I'll cover everything from current events to Critical Race Theory to pop culture, all with a conservative answer to the Left's "woke" ideology. And I encourage readers to get involved—leave a comment, or send me an email at thomas.hill@students.sacs.k12.in.us. Now, I'm turning it over to my opposition: the Liberal Ladies. They'll be (trying) to disprove my arguments and represent the liberals. But that's all from me this week, so stand strong and stay true out there, conservatives.

Let's Talk Politics is an opinion column. The views and opinions reflected here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Spartana, Homestead High School, or Southwest Allen County Schools. Any content provided by our opinion authors are of their own opinion and are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, club, organization, company, individual, or anyone and anything.

Politics.

written by
THOMAS HILL
MICHELLE OBIOMA
KATE FOUTCH

On The Other Hand...

In a deeply red state, there are some who think a little outside the box. That would be me, Kate, and my fellow Liberal Lady™, Michelle. As you can imagine, being liberal surrounded by so many conservatives during some heated discussions can be difficult and we know that it can be hard to stand your ground when people are constantly berating your opinions. The trials and tribulations of the last year alone—especially the election—have sown division all through our small community at Homestead, and, of course, the nation.

As our Teen Conservative™ himself stated, many young people are not interested in politics. This political column is here to break that stigma. I'm sure you've all heard one of your classmates or even an adult say the dreaded phrase, "If you're not old enough to vote, you shouldn't be talking about politics," but no matter how controversial politics can be, it is the core of our country. It's important to talk about politics to gain a better understanding of what shapes the world around us. It is crucial for teens—especially those who are turning eighteen soon—to know what they stand for. Even if you cannot vote right now, you will have the opportunity to at some point in your life. Understanding the realm of politics is essential for exercising your right to vote and being an informed member of your community!

As our generation becomes of voting age, we need to be educated in the issues that are facing our country. Gen Z has the power to change the course of this country. You can use your voice for change. Focusing in on local and state matters, you can email or write a letter to our representative, Jim Banks, and our senators, Todd Young and Mike Braun, about the issues that you think are pressing our community. To write a letter to Jim Banks go to, https://banks.house.gov/. To write a letter to Todd Young or Mike Braun go to either, https://www.young.senate.gov/, or https://www.braun.senate.gov/ respectively.

Another way to use your voice as a teen is to get involved with organizations committed to making a change! Organizations like the American Civil Labors Union (ACLU) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) focus on a number of different issues that are facing our world today. You can become a member of these organizations and participate in different events that push for societal change. With the midterm elections coming up, try and seek out local campaigns that you align with, and reach out to see if you can canvas for them or volunteer in other ways. Being active within your local government is just as important as being informed about the federal government.

Every week, we'll aim to add a left-wing perceptive to Thomas's many arguments. As aforementioned, these articles will cover a range of topics that we can't wait to share with you. A big part of being well-rounded politically is hearing opinions from people that you may not agree with. Upon hearing these differing opinions, you can begin to reinforce your existing beliefs and maybe refine and gain a different outlook on another issue. We hope that by reading both of our takes on the subjects at hand, you will cultivate a better understanding of complex political topics and that the information that we both provide will hopefully inspire you to go on a political deepdive of your own. If you have any questions please direct them to our emails at kathryn.foutch@students.sacs.k12.in.us and michelle.obioma@students.sacs.k12.in.us. That's it from Kate and Michelle! Hope to see you back next week!

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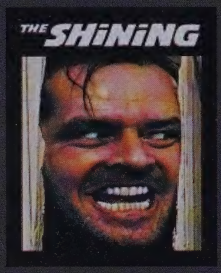
IT'S AN OLD BUT IT'S

Graphics by Canva

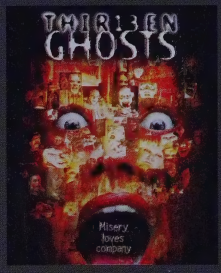
written and designed by
Kaiya Cronkhite



"THE SHINING"
(1980)

"HERES JOHNNY" - Ana Trajcevski (10)

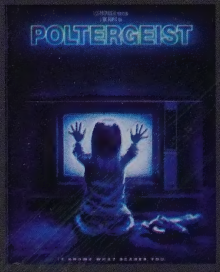
★★★★



"13 GHOSTS"
(2001)

After inheriting a house from their eccentic uncle, the new owners attempt to find the hidden fortune however, melevolent entities have other plans for the new residents.

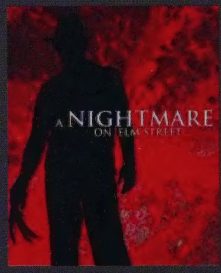
★★★★



"POLTERGEIST"
(1982)

When you think it's finally over, it's really just begining. I'd tell you what I mean but then it would spoil the whole plot.

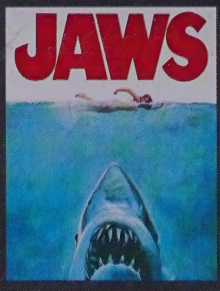
★★★★★



"NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET"
(1984)

In this classic slasher film, teenagers are terrorized in their dreams by a disfigured man attempting to kill them, which will in turn kill them in reality.

★★★



"JAWS"
(1975)

One of the frontier movies from the "police don't believe us" catergory, "Jaws" isn't really your average jumpscare type and leans towards the impending doom plotline.

★★★★

"SCREAM"
(1996)

"Scream is like my favorite horror movie because it's a parody, which means it's really ironic and self-aware" -Katelyn Styborski (11)

★★★

OLDIE, A GOODIE

"FRIDAY THE 13TH"
(1980)

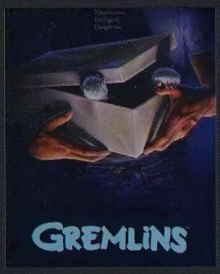
Friday the 13th really shoves the "Listen to your elders" line right in your face: when teenagers are warned against attending a summer camp because of a notorious myth, which turns out to be true.

★★★★

"HALLOWEEN"
(1978)

Of course Halloween had to be mentioned in the Halloween movies spread. Micheal Myers, as we all know him, kills his sister and escapes prison 15 years later to continue his bloody traditions.

★★★½



"GREMLINS"
(1984)

"I liked it. It was funny and made me listen to my parents because I was afraid they would turn my stuffed animals into gremlins" - Katelyn Styborski (11)

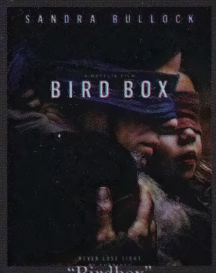
★★★★★

OLD MOVIES NOT YOUR STYLE?

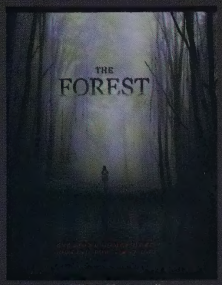
"The Fear Street Trilogy"
(2021)

"Cloverfield"
(2008)

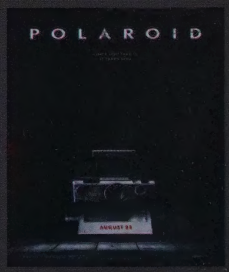
"The Conjuring Trilogy"
(2013)



"Birdbox"
(2018)



"The Forest"
(2016)



"Poloriod"
(2019)

INSIDE THE MINDS OF MONSTERS

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

Everyone knows the creepy Halloween creatures: vampires, mummies, monsters, and more. And every single spooky species has a classic character that represents it. Dracula, the Wolf Man, Frankenstein's Monster- there's no way you haven't heard of these pop culture icons before. But have you ever wondered why these monsters act the way they do? No, you say? Well, too bad, because I'm going to break down these characters for you anyways. Based on their Myers-Briggs personality type, I'll explain why these characters are the way they are. It's time to find out what's inside the minds of monsters!

Dracula- INTJ

Count Dracula. Lord of the Vampires, King of the Night. One of the most recognizable and most frightening Halloween characters. His personality type- INTJ. This is one of the most predictable personality types. Obviously, Drac is an introvert. He has to stay inside all day and feeds on anyone who gets close, Thus, hardcore intorvert. He's intuitive because he's had to learn to work outside the box to avoid sunlight and hide his immortal identity. The thinking aspect comes from his obvious careful planning in faking deaths and capturing victims over the years. Finally, he's judging because he's definitely a planner. You wouldn't catch him dead without a backup plan.

The Mummy- ISTJ

From the depths of the Egyptian pyramids comes... THE MUMMY (aka a glorified zombie). The mummy is also an introvert, probably because he's sequestered in a sarcophagus most of the time and scares off any potential friends. He's intuitive because he looks for the bigger picture beyond his pyramidal home. Adapting to the modern world is no struggle for him. The thinking aspect comes from his desire to do what is most rational, again taking things in stride and picking the most logical path. Finally, he's judging because he obviously gets stressed when continually surprised with new setbacks.

The Wolf Man- ISTP

The Wolf Man is the alpha werewolf, the top dog, if you will. He's yet another introvert, avoiding society due to his unfortunate affliction. He's intuitive because he has to be innovative to escape the werewolf hunters that are trying to chase him down. The thinking aspect comes from his planning to make sure he either harms no one or a certain someone (depending on his mood). Finally, he is prospecting because he has to be flexible and operate as he goes.

Frankenstein's Monster- INFP

Presenting the most recognizable monster and number one creation of the OG mad scientist: Frankenstein's Monster! Definitely an introvert (though probably not by choice as he's been rejected by society), he has to hide from everyone so he's not burned alive. He's intuitive because he's not really capable of advance planning. Same reasoning with feeling- definitely reactionary to everything. Finally, he's prospecting because he's extremely impulsive and doesn't think ahead.

The Grim Reaper- ISTJ

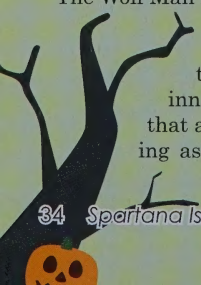
Perhaps the most terrifying Halloween character of all, being the literal representation of death, is the Grim Reaper. An introvert by nature, as you can't talk to people you're about to kill, he prefers to observe from afar rather than interact. He's observant because he acts in the now, disregarding people's pasts and futures to take their souls indiscriminately. He's thinking because of his objective decisions of death, based on statistics and data. Finally, he's judging because his job is literally to judge whose time it is to die.

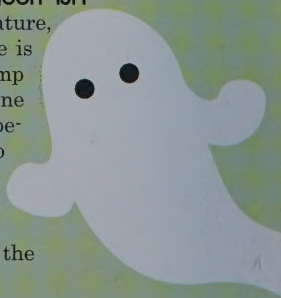
The Wicked Witch- ISTJ

Made famous by The Wizard of Oz, the Wicked Witch is actually just a representative of the witches that have lurked among us for millennia. She's also an introvert, secluding herself in a castle alone and only interacting with her Winkie slaves out of necessity. She's observant because she's focused and has a single goal- to rule Oz as wickedly as possible. The thinking comes from her plotting nature. She knows when to use her minions to take out her enemies and when to do it herself. Finally, she's judging because she's got backup plans upon backup plans. I mean, the flying monkeys are literally her fifth alternative to taking out Dorothy!

The Creature from the Black Lagoon- ISFP

Also known as the Swamp Creature, it's no surprise that the Creature is an introvert. He hides in his swamp all day, only stirring when someone disturbs him. He's observant because he's hands-on and wants to take down any intruders right then and there. He's feeling because he follows his emotions; again, this is namely anger at the





WHAT MAKES THESE CLASSIC HALLOWEEN CHARACTERS TICK?

intruders who dare interfere with his swamp. Finally, he's prospecting because he takes opportunities to terrify innocents as they come rather than seeking them out.

The Headless Horseman- ESTJ

Hailing from Tarrytown, USA, the Headless Horseman is our only extrovert on this list because of his attention-seeking antics. He's also observant because he takes a hands on (or should I say heads-on) approach to solving problems. He's thinking because he takes the time to plot his revenge schemes carefully and makes sure he really scares the heck out of the victims. Finally, he's judging because he's got a plan. And a backup plan. And another backup plan. He's ready to take all the time he needs to get his revenge.

Phantom of the Opera- INFP

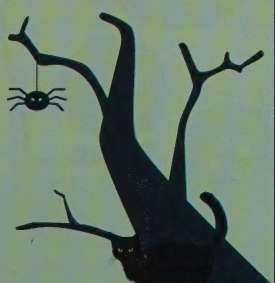
The ultimate creepy theater kid, the Phantom is the epitome of an introvert. He hides away from society and even hides his face from everyone. What more can you ask of an introvert? He's intuitive because he's imaginative and often ponders the theoretical as a tortured artist. He's feeling because he is caring and deeply connected to and in tune with his emotions. Finally, he's prospecting because he's flexible and takes the punches as they come.

Mad Scientist and Igor- INTP/ISTP

So both Igor and the Mad Scientist are introverts (surprise, surprise) because they're diligently doing crazy experiments in their dungeon laboratory twenty-four seven . The Mad Scientist is intuitive because of his obsession with the theoretical, while Igor is observant with his diligence and attention to detail (requirements for the number one evil henchman). Both are thinking because of their obsession with insane science and creating monsters. Finally, they both are prospecting because of the flexibility required from scientists. Even mad scientists must follow the scientific method to get results.

Honorable Minion Mentions: Zombies, Ghosts, Goblins, Skeletons, Scarecrows

These guys lack an iconic representative or notable character, so they tend to fall into a minion mindset. I'm sure they have a variety of personality types, but they all share a follower mentality. They'll fall in line and do whatever they're told by the real big baddies. So they just get an honorable mention. Maybe someday an icon will rise from their ranks to join this list, but not today!



WHAT IS MBT

- MIND: DETERMINES HOW WE INTERACT WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT
  - I/E= INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT
- ENERGY: SHOWS WHERE WE DIRECT OUR MENTAL ENERGY
  - S/N= OBSERVANT OR INTUITIVE
- NATURE: DETERMINES HOW W MAKE DECISIONS AND COPE WITH EMOTIONS
  - F/T= FEELING OR THINKING
- TACTICS: REFLECTS OUR APPROACH TO WORK, PLANNING, AND DECISION MAKING
  - P/J= PROSPECTING OR JUDGING

The Culture of Coraline

written and designed by
GAIA SPLENDORE

When thinking about cult classic movies, Coraline is up there. The fan favorite children's movie has lived long in many people's hearts, either as a fond childhood memory or as a recent appreciation of it many years after its release.

The stop-motion hit took over 500 people over four years to complete. The production process was incredibly labor-intensive. The team's hard work paid off in the end, scoring an Oscar nomination and other awards such as "Movie of the Year" and "Best Production Design." Aside from the awards, Coraline is a beloved movie in many people's hearts, including my own.

Now, I do have to admit that I never watched Coraline as a kid. However, I have an excuse: it was banned from my house. My older sister, Mia Splendore, watched it when she was young, and it shook her to her core and terrified her so much that it was enough for my mom to stop me from watching it.

When asked about it, she said that Coraline "scared me so bad as a kid [that] I had to watch a lot of Zack and Cody to feel better." There is a happy ending, however, when she rewatched it and said, "Yeah, it was not so bad the second time -very enjoyable."

This does not seem to be an isolated incident. When I asked Josie Clark (11) about the stop-motion hit, she said, "I really like Coraline. It brings back good memories and I love the production and world building in it," but when I asked Clarke if it scared her as a kid she said, "Oh yeah, it totally gave me nightmares, but I love it." It seems that the movie scarred many kids. However, when their ages grew, so did their appreciation for the movie.

The Splendore household has since then moved on from our contraband Coraline phase, and I watched it for the first time with some friends a few months ago.

Now, I can definitely see how it can freak little kids out. From lanky, manipulative "other mothers" to a creepy crawly atmosphere, it's a little spooky.

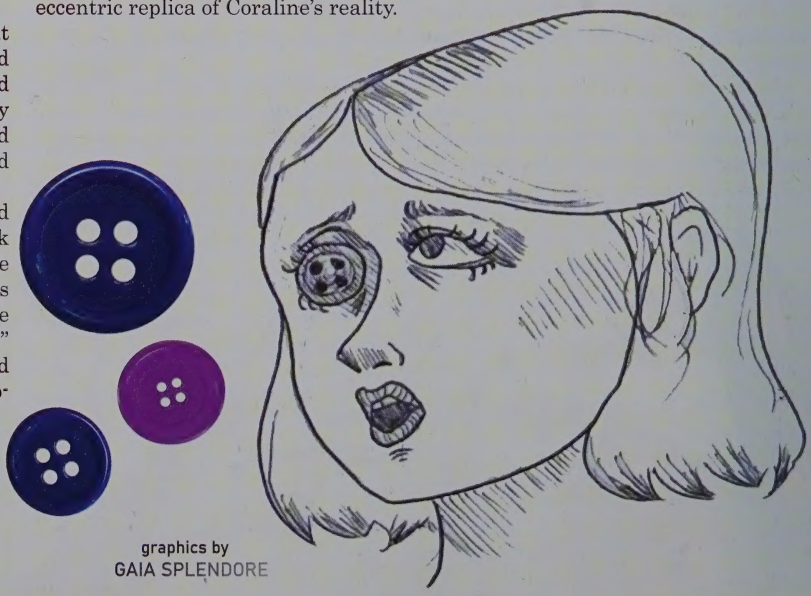
I can see how there needed to be some Zack and Cody therapy, but I can just as easily see how the film could be someone's favorite. The horror manages to be charming, and viewers can understand how the main character Coraline can be so entranced in this other world.

The setting and production of the entire movie is whimsical and magical, especially in the "other world," an eccentric replica of Coraline's reality.

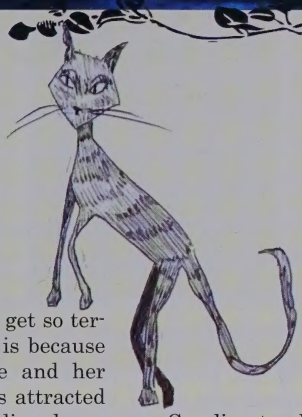
This added mystical element, along with the fact that the movie uses stop-motion animation, appeals to children's imaginations. But the production of the movie itself is not the only thing that attracts its younger target audience.

The conflict of the movie all stems from Coraline's neglectful parents. They always seem to have something more important to do and Coraline often gets left behind. While most people would not say that they were outright neglected as children, it is a common feeling for kids to feel unheard and unseen. Even with the most caring parents, it is human to feel overlooked at some point.

Children can see themselves in Coraline, even in such an otherworldly setting, and get truly attached to her. Even conflicts that may seem trivial now, like her mother refusing to buy her new gloves, speak to children and the way they view love.



graphics by
GAIA SPLENDORE



One of the reasons kids get so terrified from the movie is because they understand Coraline and her struggles. They get just as attracted to the other world as Coraline does - I mean, with a mouse circus routine and an entire garden with a myriad of different flowers all arranged in your honor, who wouldn't fall in love?

"I remember I always wanted to be Coraline," said Renee Peteron (11), "the other world was so interesting and I really loved the music and characters. I guess I wouldn't really want to be in danger and imprisoned forever though." Coraline entrances people and even though it's a spooky movie, it's so endearing.

However, the whole point of the movie is that Coraline could not stay in that dream world. This fantasy world was nothing more than an elaborate trap that would leave Coraline to suffer for eternity, so it's pretty clear she had to escape.

At the end, when Coraline returns to her real family and can enjoy a newfound appreciation for what she already has, the conflict is resolved. Her family changes and becomes more attentive and loving and there is a happy ending in which the whole family learns to appreciate each other.

Coraline teaches people to appreciate the mundane world and that joy can be found all around us. We don't need an elaborate other world to feel satisfied and interested when there is already so much beauty and whimsy in the real world.

Even simple pleasures are pleasures and can demonstrate the love that exists around us. The idea that we already have everything around us to feel fulfilled is pretty mature, especially for a children's movie.

At a first glance, Coraline is a gripping film with mysterious, unsettling cats and narcissistic mothers that would scare just about any child. However, more mature adults and teenagers are able to appreciate the unexpected lesson in such a mythical and magical movie: to enjoy the mundane. Not only can mature people form a distinctinction between fantasy and reality, but they can also learn to appreciate reality by itself.

While Coraline's story of feeling undervalued still strikes a chord with the audience, I would argue that the ability to appreciate what's all around us and to learn to love mundane life resonates just as strongly.

Feline Fascination

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

Cats captivate people. They have for millenia, and I doubt their bewitching qualities will begin to diminish now. The Egyptians wittily named the domestic cat "Mao," and associated felines with the divine. Today, according to Yale's Human Relations Area Files, the Azande society of North Africa views wild cats as omens of witchcraft, lesbianism, and death. In America, the cat steals the baby's breath. The list of the world's portrayals of cats is virtually inexhaustible.

Not only am I affected by the enigma of cats, but also our fascination with them. For instance, just watching a cat can provide fulfillment and joy. Karlee Hecksher (11), owner of four cats, two of which are kittens, said, "Observing my cats is one of my favorite parts about owning them, honestly. They do the funniest things sometimes and have such big personalities."

Perhaps, it is the mischief of a cat that makes the creature so appealing. Of Hecksher's adult cats, Duchess demands cuddles intermittently, and Tea (or T) requires outside sunbathing to balance her moods. The kittens, on the other hand, have more energy, and therefore more means of mischief. Named after their breed, the Russian blue mix, the kittens Tito and Blueberry create more absurd and chaotic events.

"Now the kittens are something else in their antics. Multiple times I've had my mother hand me a soaking wet kitten that looks more like a drowned rat, because they fell into the bath for the tenth time," Hecksher said.

T "Tea" (b. 1975)
T in Bed, 2021

It is evident in Hecksher's amusing anecdotes that cats are surprising, even in their routines. For, we can never truly understand their purpose. What could be so enticing about a bath when the consequences are so dire?

Not only are we unable to wholly decipher cats' motives, but we also cannot advise them. Unlike dogs, cats failed to fully convert to domestication. Dr. David Price, who teaches AP Literature and currently houses three cats, said, "There still is always this streak of independence in them. When I look at a cat and compare it to a dog, dogs are loyal and cats are independent. I prize that over loyalty."

Vanessa Stockard (b. 1975)
Kevin, 2019

Even catless cat people understand this trait.

"Cats are known to rely on their free-will even in a household setting," Michael Doeffler (11) said.

Some of cats' behavior is obviously instinctive - the legacy of their predatory ancestors. For instance, my cat, Ollie, cannot help eating rodents, birds, and the occasional snake. I know this because he demonstrates his glories via regurgitation. Despite the unpleasant consequences to myself, I cannot help but admire Ollie for his murderous pastimes.

This reaction is not an anomaly, and Ollie is clearly not alone in his impulses. Although cats' personalities vary immensely, there is an essential similarity among all cats.

The mischief, the independence, the instinct, and the mystery all swirl together into a delightful package of fur, spirit, and love.

Cats provide more than an enigma. Like any relationship, they provide warmth and vibrancy to life.

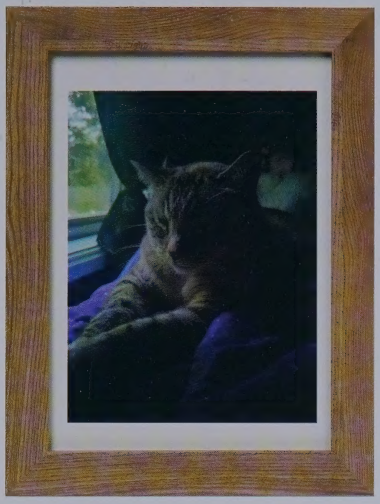
"When (Delphine) is on my lap, my blood pressure just drops. To a healthy level, it drops to a healthy level. I don't just pass out. She is extraordinary in having that effect on me," Price said.

Hecksher, too, experiences this cat-induced ease.

"I enjoy their company because of different reasons for each cat.

Oliver "Ollie" (b. 2018)
Cynical, 2021

Tito (b. 2021)
Tito, 2021



Duchess (b. 2006)
Duchess in Sunlight, 2021

Blueberry "Berry" and Tito (b. 2021)
Cuddlesome, 2021

If I was in the company of my kittens, I enjoy them for their playful and excited energy... My adult kitties are calmer and nice to sit with in quieter moments, Duchess especially. But I mostly enjoy the company of cats because I've lived with them my entire life, they are family and a huge comfort to me," Hecksher said.

When I am with my own cat, I can feel my muscles untense. Just seeing him causes any nervous thought to run away. He lets me smile.

Pablo Picasso (b. 1881)
Cat Catching a Bird, 1939

Holly Warburton (b. unknown)
Bobby at Home, 2017-2018

As sources of joy are often sources of inspiration, it is no surprise the popularity cats hold in literature. According to Price, "Baudelaire writes beautifully about cats, and he captures some of their peculiarities and just the way they carry themselves - the kind of mystery that imbues their being." After reading Baudelaire's "Le Chat," I completely agree.

Cats also frequent the domain of art. While the Renaissance paintings of cats are... mildly disconcerting, feline art has evolved since. And, whether the cats are the subjects or delicate details, they are a wondrous sight.

Of the contemporary artists, Vanessa Stockard and Holly Warburton stand out. The former is known for her wide-eyed, disheveled black cats, whereas the latter covertly slips a feline friend in her emotive pieces.

In art or in life, cats are delightful (even in their neediness). They bring light into our lives with their supposed nonchalance and laughter with their refined clumsiness. To those who dislike them, I recommend you reconsider.

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Spartana

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cover designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

table of contents designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

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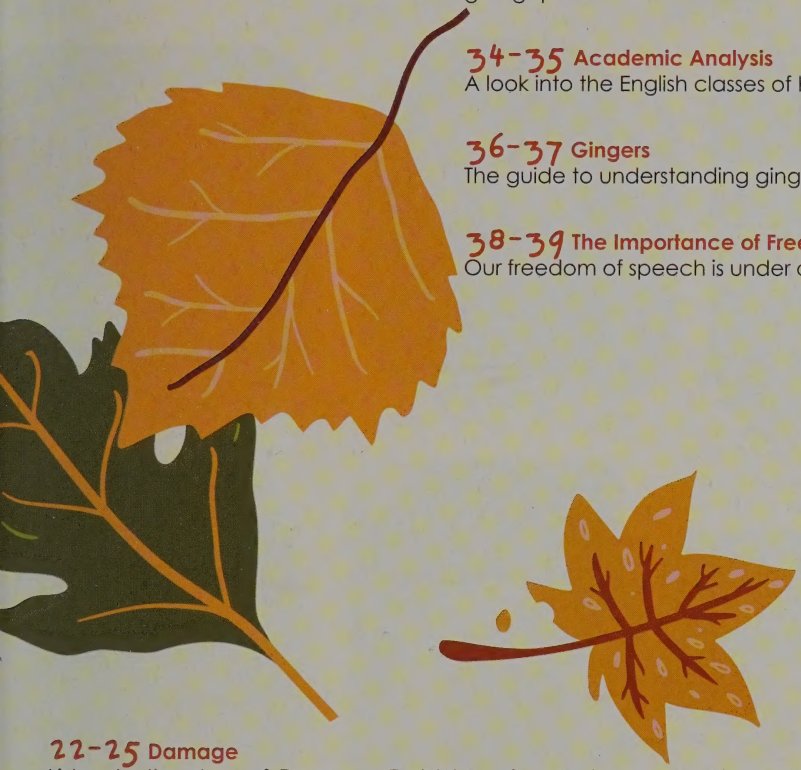

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GRAPHICS COURTESY OF CANVA

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Letter from the Editor

"Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily passing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically knocking people's hats off - then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can," (Melville, 1).

It amazes me that Herman Melville, in the ripe year of 1851, depicted the nearly universal sentiments of Homestead High School's current citizenry. The cold treks into this institution evoke irritation, rage, and downright sadness. Personally, I have never felt such contempt for my peers than when I am seeking a parking spot at 7:22 am. It is November, in our reality and in our souls.

There are less than two months left in the semester, and we must find a way to survive. Unfortunately, unlike Ishmael, we are landlocked. It seems that we must take *Moby-Dick* metaphorically. Rather than completely succumbing to the comforts of holiday food and cheer, try sailing out into the unknown. Too often are we struck by inhibition, unable to pursue what we desire. We can hide from the "drizzly November" or we can let it take us into something new.

Still, as it is November, and our entry into the holiday season, we must be grateful for the old. While change is beneficial, so are the routines of life. Appreciating hot coffee in the morning or time with your cat, now is the time to say our thanks. To the right, you can see those whom the Spartana staff is thankful for: our pets. Disclaimer: Doopy is merely a dog we all admire.

Doopy

Marshmellow & H

Nora

Louie

Turtle

Gracie

racie

Uno

Gigi

Daisy

y Lucy

Zero & Mako

Roxie

Reddington

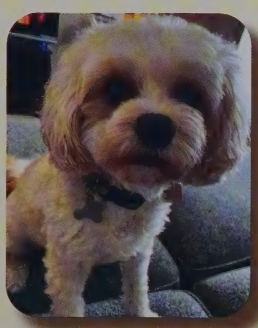
Oliver

Harold

Kody

Maggie

Finn & Bowie



Bentley

Otis & Amos

The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser

To my dear brothers:

Chapter Five: The Whirlpool

written and illustrated by
KATELYN STYBORSKI
designed by Thomas Hill

The two landed hard in the bottom of the ditch. A cloud of dust poofed up around them, covering their wet skin, (or rubber, in Smiley's case,) in a thick layer of gritty dirt.

"Ouch," Jolean groaned, rubbing her elbows.

"Hey! Where did the water go?" asked Smiley.

"I don't know. It disappeared like-" her eyes shot to the eraser floating beside her, "Magic!"

She dived towards him, grabbing him with both hands. "Smiley, did you do this?" She scowled at him, pouting over the tan dust coating her stomach and arms.

Smiley shook his head. "Wasn't me! All I can do is float."

"You're lying! I know you're lying."

"Jolean, I promise, this wasn't me."

"Then who- Eep!"

The ground beneath them began to tremble. Rocks started to tap violently against the ground while a dull rumbling started to hum beneath their feet.

"Whoa!"

Jolean was thrown backward by the force of the shaking. She lost her grip on Smiley who bounced along the ground for a minute before he finally shook himself off and got the strength to float, unaffected by the shaking ground. Standing at an impossible angle, Jolean attempted to combat the earthquake. She was bent straight over by her waist, her arms extended out, windmilling about her sides in a desperate attempt to keep her balance.

Then, as suddenly as it started, it stopped.

Jolean collapsed to the ground, her arms shaking. "What-" she groaned between gasping breaths, "was that?"

"I don't know," Smiley bit his lip, his eyes looking around frantically, "but I have a feeling its about to get worse."

"Yikes!" Jolean shrieked as she felt cold water rush over her feet. They looked down.

Water was leaking through the cracks in the side of the ditch. Smiley moved closer to the girl.

"It's starting."

"What's starting-?" Her voice cut off in a shrill yell as water began gushing from the cracks in the walls of the ditch.

The force of the water swirled around them creating a twisting whirlpool. It surrounded them from every angle, but never moved close enough to draw them in.

Blinking in the spray of the whirlpool, Jolean and Smiley marveled at the wall of water. It churned around and around, glinting in the sunlight. The friends didn't even need to say anything. They both looked at it for a minute then jumped in.

Their heads popped up above the water, but they were surprised to see that instead of up, the two seemed to be positioned sideways, with the center of the whirlpool above their heads. Laughing, Smiley and Jolean whirled around in the pool of water, much gentler than they had anticipated. They chased each other in circles, diving under the water to avoid getting caught.

Eventually, they got tired. The two floated straight up in the whirlpool, lazily lifting their heads up to admire the small opening to the sky.

Jolean's eyes were half-closed. Smiley lay on her chest, admiring how the water glinted in the sunlight. The rippling light danced over the pair, illuminating their faces in rainbow colors.

Smiley sat up. "Jolean, what was that?"

"What was what?"

A shadow passed over them, leaving a deep indigo stain in the light blue water.

Jolean immediately tensed up. She and Smiley floated back to back in the whirlpool, their eyes straining to see through the murky blue.

"There!"

A large shape was moving towards them, hidden by the blur of the water. It started to circle them, moving faster than the whirlpool. For a moment, the pair wondered if they were seeing double. Then they realized:

"Smiley," the girl braced him against her back, "There's five of them!"

The shadows grew closer and closer, forming a ring around Jolean and Smiley's air pocket. Inches from Jolean's face, a scaly green snout poked through the water, smiling with huge, yellow teeth.

Alligators!

Special Note- Hello again friends! I'm so excited for you to read the next exciting installment of The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser. If you're just joining us for the first time, you probably feel like you've missed A LOT. That's because you have. We're five chapters in, baby, and chapters 1-4 are available on the Spartana's website if you missed them. Even those of you who read chapter three might've forgotten to check the site for chapter four, so go ahead and catch up on that right now! This is the last chapter that has any semblance of normal, so prepare for the true adventures to begin in Chapter Six (which will only be available on www.hhsspartana.com, so CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE GUYS!) Thanks for being such dedicated readers, and be sure to leave a comment online or email me at katelyn.styborski@students.sacs.k12.in.us with your thoughts, theories, and criticisms! That's all from me this month, friends, so have an awesome November.

THE SPARTANA
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Like the content you see here? Check out hhsspartana.com for more exclusive online stories and columns. Plus, catch up on our past issues and articles. Our Spartana staff is dedicated to making our content available digitally and accessible to everyone, so keep an eye on the website as the newest part of the Spartana family.

Dad Jokes

written and designed by
SAMUEL COLE

According to Wikipedia, a dad joke is defined as "a short joke, typically a pun, presented as a one-liner or a question and answer, but not a narrative." They are generally inoffensive and are told with real intent to make someone laugh. But most of the time, they just invoke a negative reaction because of the simple humor. The first time the phrase "dad joke" was ever written was in 1987, in a Gettysburg Times column by Jim Kalbaugh. However, the first joke ever written was traced back to roughly 1900 BC and is roughly translated to: "Something which has never occurred since time immemorial; a young woman did not fart in her husband's lap." The joke was written by the ancient Summerians, who lived in the area that became modern-day Iraq. The writer of this story doesn't know what that means either, so we're pretty much in the same boat. Personally, he thinks that they are his favorite kind of joke, and also finds it weird that he is actively refering to himself in the third person.

Dad jokes are often considered to be anti-jokes, but who cares-let's get to the jokes.
-I like to keep bread on me at all times in case I knead the extra dough.
-When two vegans get in an argument, is it still called beef?
-I used to be addicted to soap, but then I got clean.
-I like telling dad jokes. Sometimes he laughs.
-What's the problem with fridge magnets? Figuring out what to do with all your new fridges.

Merriam Webster defines "dad joke" as "a wholesome joke of the type said to be told by fathers with a punchline that is often an obvious or predictable pun or play on words and usually judged to be endearingly corny or unfunny." So basically, just dumb jokes with easy to guess punchlines, which are usually meant to be corny.
-I had a neck brace fitted years ago and I've never looked back since.
-Two guys walked into a bar, the third one ducked.
-I'm so good at sleeping that I can do it with my eyes closed.

-Why is cold water always insecure? Because it's never called hot.
-I know alot of jokes about retired people, but none of them work.
-When does a dad joke become a dad joke? When it becomes apparent.
-I caught a theif stealing from a bakery. I guess you could say that he liked to take whisks.
-Why was the ghost always tired? He worked the graveyard shift.
-It takes guts to be an organ donor.

Have you ever thought about why dad jokes are called dad jokes? Why does it have to be pinned on them? I'm not a dad and I still make dad jokes all the time!

-My friend is mad that I have no sense of direction, so I packed up my stuff and right.
-What do you call someone who steals from bakeries? A whisk taker.
-The wedding was so beautiful that even the cake was in tiers. (You may have to say this one out loud to get it.)
-What do you call two monkeys that share an amazon account? Prime mates

-I once got fired from a canned juice company. They said I couldn't concentrate.
-Why are there fences around graveyards? Because people are dying to get in.
-A cheesburger walks into a bar. The bartender says "sorry, we don't serve food here."
-Did you know that roughly 5/4 people have trouble with fractions?

Writer's favorite joke: A guy walks into a bar, and was disqualified from the limbo contest.

Well, that's all the jokes (or at least the ones the writer bothered to write down.) And, don't say these aren't funny-it hurts his confidence!

Like what you see here? Check out hhsspartana.com for more stories and digital copies of each issue.

Rollin' with It

written and designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

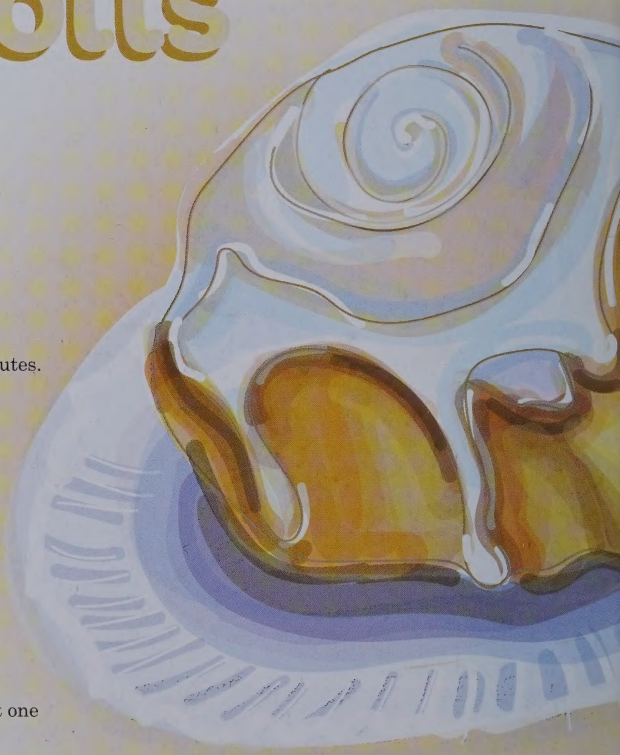
As we near the end of the first semester, you may have noticed two missing, crucial components of our day-to-day lives here at Homestead High School: the cinnamon and hot rolls. With the aid of the Homestead cafeteria staff, the Spartana is proud to bring these long sought after recipes to our dear readers.

Cinnamon Rolls

Dough
¾ cup sugar
¼ cup milk
1 egg
1 ½ tsp salt
3 ½ cups flour
⅜ cups chilled butter, cut into small pieces
3 tsp yeast
1 cup and 1 tbsp warm water

Filling
¾ cup packed brown sugar
2 tbsp ground cinnamon
¼ cup melted butter

Icing
½ cup softened butter
¼ cup softened cream cheese
½ tsp vanilla extract
⅛ tsp salt
1 ½ cups confectioner's sugar



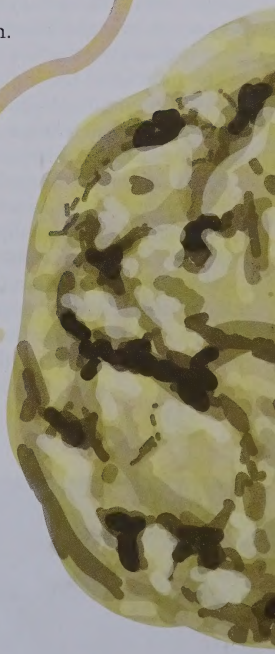
1) Preheat oven to 350°F.
2) To make the dough, combine the flour, salt and yeast for 3 minutes.
3) Add in the chunks of chilled butter.
4) Mix in the eggs, milk and sugar.
5) Add in the warm water.
6) Knead for 6 to 8 minutes.
7) Let the dough rest in a well greased and covered bowl for 1 hour.
8) To make the filling, combine the brown sugar and cinnamon.
9) Divide the dough in half and roll it out to a 8x11 inch rectangle on a well-floured surface.
10) Brush with the melted butter for the filling and sprinkle with half of the brown sugar and cinnamon mixture.
11) Roll into a longer and cut into 2-inch slices. Repeat with remaining dough and brown sugar and cinnamon mixture.
12) Place in a greased, 13x9-inch pan with the cut side down.
13) Cover with a kitchen towel and let rise until doubled in about one hour.
14) Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.
15) To make the icing, mix together the softened butter, softened cream cheese, vanilla extract, salt and confectioner's sugar in a bowl.
16) Brush the cinnamon rolls with the icing 2 to 3 minutes after they come out of the oven.

GRAPHICS BY MADELINE PHUONG

Hot Rolls

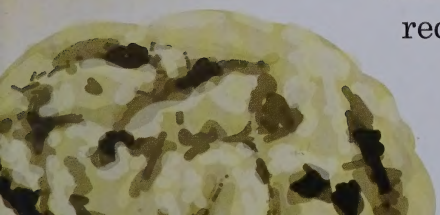
Dough
¾ cup sugar
¼ cup milk
1 egg
1 ½ tsp salt
3 ½ cups flour
⅜ cups chilled butter, cut into small pieces
3 tsp yeast
1 cup and 1 tbsp warm water

1) Preheat oven to 250°F.
2) Mix together the flour, salt and yeast for 3 minutes.
3) Add in the chunks of chilled butter.
4) Add in the warm water.
5) Knead for 15 minutes.
6) Cover and let rest for 10 minutes.
7) Form the dough into balls and place in a greased 13x9 inch pan.
8) Let rise for 30 minutes.
9) Bake for 45 to 48 minutes.



Doughn't feel like rolls?

Check out the cafeteria's cookie recipes at hhsspartana.com!



Food Finds o

written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW

Are you tired of eating at the same old restaurants? Are you too busy to make yourself a time consuming and complicated dinner? Or maybe you're just looking to experience the food of downtown Fort Wayne. Whatever your reason may be, downtown Fort Wayne has a variety of restaurants with different price ranges and types of food. No matter how you like to enjoy a meal out, Fort Wayne has something for you.

Mercado

Affordability: $ $
118 W Columbia St

Located on The Landing downtown, this restaurant serves effortlessly delicious Cali-Mexican cuisine. It began as a food truck before growing into the successful eatery that it is today. "The revamped Landing are great places to visit. The tacos at Mercado are delicious!" said Mr. Beer. They serve food like chicano chicken, shrimp and lobster cake and a pachola burger for dinner. With a more casual lunch, reminiscent of their food truck days, they serve burgers, salads and tacos. Most impressive was the design on the interior of the building. It has eye-catching patterns and art contrasting a fairly basic system of interior design. The bar in particular is beautifully done in an attractive manner. Depending on what you are looking for, they generally charge anywhere from $5 to $20, with a few exceptions. I would encourage paying a visit to this food truck turned restaurant for an appetizing, affordable and memorable meal.

The Old Gas House

Affordability: $ $
305 E Superior St

Perhaps the most interesting thing about The Old Gas House is the history behind it. True to its name, this restaurant used to be a gas plant; however, in 1958, a man named Don Hall, who at the time owned a drive-in, converted it into a restaurant. They sell salads, sandwiches and a wide array of meat and seafood dishes. Aside from their steak, most of the food served here doesn't break $15. For the quality and history you get with your meal, I would say the price is worth it. The interior has managed to keep a more sleek and official look while also managing to have a more friendly atmosphere. This makes it a restaurant perfect for an experience of something slightly more fancy that still stays within a certain laid-back feel and affordable price range. Reviews of this restaurant praise them for having stellar customer service. You cannot go wrong with a delicious (and deliciously cheap) meal, especially not when it comes with a rich history and friendly servers.

Tolon

Affordability: $ $ $
614 S Harrison St

Described as an industrial-chic eatery, Tolon heavily emphasizes the interior of their building, and with good reason. It is a beautiful restaurant that brings the room together. The food itself is delicious, consisting of lots of steak and pork. Despite the prices being higher than the others mentioned here, it is, without a doubt, worth the extra money. Just by being inside of the building, it is clear how much work and care is put into this establishment by the owners and the employees working there. Servers are quick and efficient, while also being polite and even pleasant to have a conversation with. On top of that, Tolon has a farm-to-table system of providing ingredients that attracts many visitors. This is because one of the owners, Nicky, grew up on a small farm right here in Indiana. Undoubtedly, this provided a richer understanding of the state of Indiana and those living in it. Maybe that is why the food there is so perfectly done.

f Fort Wayne

Don't trust my judgement? How about these three recommendations all from your fellow Homestead students. All of them are within a somewhat affordable price range for those working minimum wage at part time jobs and have food that anyone would be able to enjoy.

Pint & Slice

Affordability: $
816 S Calhoun St

It should come as no surprise that Pint & Slice makes the list. Founded in 2007 by the Thomas family, this downtown restaurant has plenty to offer, from pizza to sandwiches to pasta. The pizza especially is magnificent. "They have really unique options that you might not necessarily design yourself, but they taste great," said Anyla Shafer (11). The building can accommodate anyone from small groups looking for a slice or two of quality pizza to a birthday party needing a more open seating arrangement. The beautiful paintings adorning their walls along with the comfortable yet intimate seating arrangements create a happy and homey atmosphere. By far, my favorite part of Pint and Slice is the price. One slice of plain pizza will cost you only three dollars. This restaurant is perfect for getting together with friends and walking away without putting a dent in your wallet. The only downside is the possibility of having to parallel park. Between the affordability, the versatile seating, and the delicious food, Pint & Slice is a must-visit for the downtown area.

AltoGradoPizza

Affordability: $ $
111 W Columbia St

AltoGradoPizza offers wood fired pizza, the eternally superior pizza, along with breadsticks, dessert and grinders. "They have a good amount of different types of pizza, and they even have a vegan option," said Josie Clarke (11), who later went on to emphasize the kindness and hospitality of their employees. Their menu can back this claim up with an extensive list of different toppings and styles that you can customize your pizza with, including a classic margherita, white pizza and Brooklyn-style pizza. Despite my limited knowledge of vegans and their pizza, if it is half as good as their non-vegan options, it'll be worth it. Farm-to-table and locally sourced items are available at their restaurant as well. AltoGradoPizza has also reached beyond the norms of what being a restaurant is all about. "They also do pizza workshops, which I think is pretty cool," explained Clarke. AltoGradoPizza's care for both the customer and the products they are putting out should be enough to earn your business.

The Hoppy Gnome

Affordability: $ $
203 E Berry St

The Hoppy Gnome is a well-liked restaurant in downtown Fort Wayne, and with good reason. The photos posted on their website are mouth-wateringly delicious, and the physical food is even more so. "I have been to Hoppy Gnome once and I shared tacos. They were actually amazing" said Laura McWilliams (11). Don't worry if tacos aren't really your thing. The Hoppy Gnome has an extensive menu filled with entrees from across the globe: vegan sushi, hummus flatbread, and many salads. This restaurant has made it a priority to gather foods from different cultures and countries to differentiate themselves from the typical American food and restaurant. Along with that, they have made their restaurant extremely family-friendly through having a kids' menu. Furthermore, their prices, though higher than some, are extremely fair, with most dishes under $20. If your goal is to find a restaurant where you can experience something new, the Hoppy Gnome is the place for you.

What's on the Menu?

Everyone knows the Thanksgiving classics- corn, rolls, turkey, cranberry sauce- the list goes on and on. But are these really the foods that the Pilgrims and Wampanoag had at the legendary "First Thanksgiving Feast"? Here's what was on the first Thanksgiving table!

Turkey & Fowl

While the Pilgrims did bring turkey to the feast, it was wild turkey, not domesticated. Additionally, there was nothing special about this turkey. It was actually one of many birds they likely caught, including geese, ducks, and swans. And that delicious stuffing we associate with turkey? There wasn't any bread-based stuffing at the feast. Instead the Pilgrims would've used herbs, onions, or nuts for extra flavoring.

The (First) Th

Vegetables

The Pilgrims and Wampanoag ate a variety of vegetables from the area, including onions, beans, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, carrots, and peas. Traditional corn wasn't served, instead being used to make cornmeal, the basis for the porridge the Pilgrims would've made. Additionally, there were no potatoes. Potatoes hadn't yet been introduced to North America and were just starting to make their way back to Europe, so neither the Pilgrims nor the Wampanoag would've had any!

Fruits

The fruits that were at the First Thanksgiving likely included blueberries, plums, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries, and, yes, cranberries. However, the cranberries wouldn't have been made into a sauce like we make today, especially since the Pilgrims' sugar stores were depleted by the time the First Thanksgiving came around.

Pumpkin Pie?

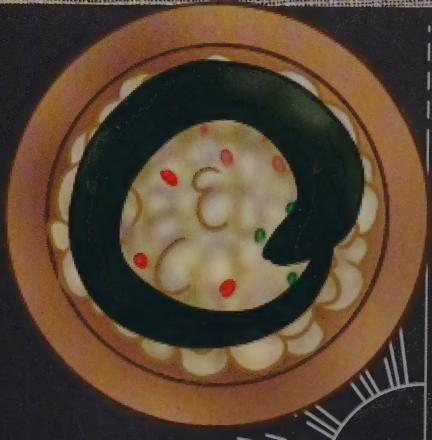
Without sugar, it's easy to see that the Pilgrims and Wampanoag didn't have traditional pumpkin pie. They didn't even have flour or butter to make the crust, or even an oven to bake it in! However, they did have a pumpkin-based dish. The Pilgrims likely hollowed out pumpkins and filled the shells with milk, honey, and spices to make a custard. Then, they would've roasted the gourds whole in hot ashes.

anksgiving Table

written and designed by:
THOMAS HILL

Seafood

There's one last dish that was served at the First Thanksgiving, and it's one that we don't even associate with Thanksgiving today- seafood! Because Plymouth was so near the ocean, there was an abundance of seafood. The Pilgrims served mussels, which were found in plenty on the rocks along the shoreline. Mussels, a type of shellfish, were served with curds, a dairy dish similar to cottage cheese. Besides mussels, there was a ton of other seafood, including lobster, bass, clams, oysters, and even eel. Seafood made up one of the largest portions of the feast yet we don't even consider it a Thanksgiving dish today.

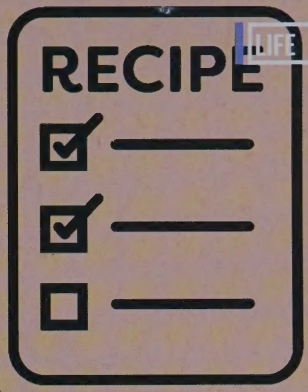


What's on your plate?

written and designed by
Alessia Passoni

Thanksgiving is a well known holiday in America. Families gather around the table, mouths watering with delight. Autumn colors decorate the room. Food is passed around and around, including pumpkin pie, green bean casserole, honey ham, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, corn and the delightful cravings continue. All of the staples of Thanksgiving are planned accordingly. Bread rolls are set at each place. Knives, spoons, and forks dance around the counter. Guests find their seats as the anticipation eats at them. Mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles rush from the kitchen, food steaming in their hands. The aroma of the turkey, mashed potatoes, and green bean casserole fill the noses of the guests. Their stomachs gnawing at their backbone.Hands grab at the mountain of food, mouths watering in excitement. Conversations heighten as the buster of noise expands. Cousins, uncles, nephews, grandchildren fill the once empty house. Joyful smiles are plastered on their faces. Greetings and hugs shower the guests. What is your favorite meal? What meal do you remember cherishing as a kid? Did you or your family have any fun family traditions? Teachers and staff members fill us in with some of their favorites and what they love best about Thanksgiving.

Mr. Brown, head of the cafeteria, cooks the most wonderful meals for his family. He and his wife share the responsibilities in the kitchen. Brown coaches basketball and has a game the night before, so they have a long night. In order for Thanksgiving to be possible, he adjusted the Thanksgiving time to later in the day. Enjoying a variety of foods, Brown says, "obviously turkey, stuffing is my favorite side, green bean casserole, and sweet potato casserole."



Mrs. Dely, culinary cook at Homestead high school, loves Thanksgiving. She mentions how her parents cook the big meal with the help of her family. She also mentions how her father deep fries the turkey and it's very delicious. Dely remembers Thanksgiving as a young child: "For many years we went to watch the Detroit Lions play football before eating our meal."

Mrs. Waite, one of the Latin teachers, looks forward to Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time where she can get together with her family. Waite cooks for her immediate family and cousin who lives here in Fort Wayne. Her favorite dish is mashed potatoes. Waite said, "It is our tradition for my daughter to make sweet potato souffle which was a recipe of my mother's."

Mrs. Rauber, one of the many English teachers here at Homestead, also enjoys Thanksgiving. As a kid, her family worked together to help her mother cook the feast. She says, "I was in charge of the gravy, but I helped with everything." Her favorite dish is stuffing and dressing and she enjoys homemade cornbread as well as freshly grown sage. Rauber and her sister-and-law help prepare a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for their family.

MAINS MISCONC

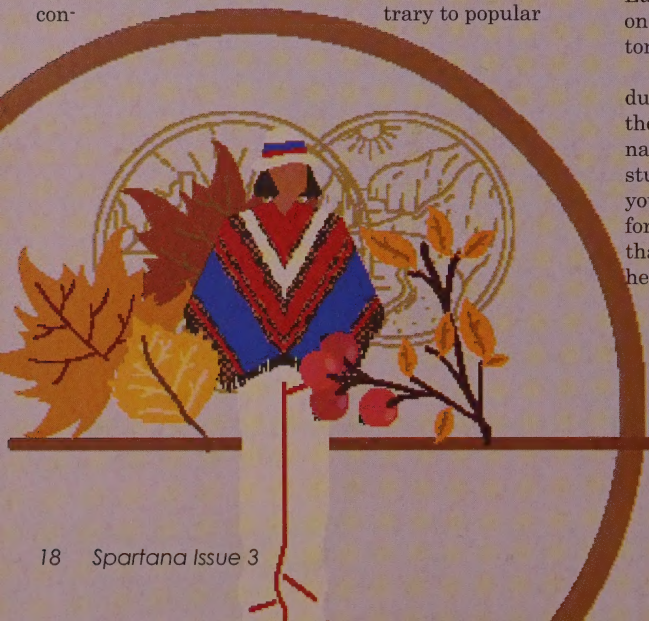
written and designed by
Kaiya Cronkhite

How did George Washington chew his Thanksgiving dinner?

This one is possibly the most believed misconception regarding the leaders and significant figures of our country. No, it's not that Abraham Lincoln was a vampire hunter; it's about our favorite founding father and the first president of the United States of America, George Washington. This man is interesting in more ways than one. If you fall deep into the rabbit hole of U.S. history, you'll discover these surprising facts, including that he indeed did not cut down the famous cherry tree. That story was actually made up by an author named Mason Locke Weems.

Also, the story of George Washington having wooden teeth is fake as well: he did have fake teeth, but, contrary to popular misconception, they were dentures made of teeth donated from people. Unfortunately, the amusing tale covers up a horrifying truth. Washington's dentist, Dr. Le Mayeur, was known for putting advertisements out in newspapers, summoning people who were willing to donate two front teeth for two guineas, or 19 pounds. Le Mayeur, was quoted offering discounted rates for slave teeth as well adding a sub note within his advertisement stating "slaves expected." As noted by Washington's distant cousin and manager of his estate, Lund Washington, he paid no more than 6 pounds in the transaction, implying the discounted rates from slaves. Recorded in the plantation ledger books for May of 1784, Lund Washington wrote "By Cash pd Negroes for 9 Teeth on Acct of Dr. Lemoire", which was the name of Washington's dentist at the time.

The idea of wooden teeth could have gotten its origin due to the poor hygiene of soldiers at the time. Often, their teeth would darken in color from all of the rot and nastiness. But, if you knew George Washington or have stumbled down the previously mentioned rabbit hole, you would have learned that Washington was a stickler for cleanliness and order. He frequently wrote in letters that the state of the army was repulsive to him and that he could not stand to live in the filth and disorder.



TREAM EPTIONS

Pie, Pie, and more Pie

If you're from Fort Wayne, you most likely know about Johnny Appleseed, who was actually a real person! What most people don't know about Johnny Appleseed is that he was one of the original causes of Americans being known for apple pie. Johnny Appleseed's real name was John Chapman. He toured the frontier as a nurseryman and planted numerous varieties of apple trees across the Midwest. After Johnny Appleseed became part of American folklore, apples became associated with America. The popularity of the actual pie itself however grew when a newly American recipe was published in an American cookbook, American Cookery, shortly after America won its independence. On the other hand, pie has been a tradition in America since the British migrated to North America, spurring our traditions of pumpkin and pecan pie.

Mayfly, or super mosquito?

For the last time, mayflies are harmless. I promise they won't sting you. Mayflies honestly don't have much purpose; they show up around spring and fall and most don't really know why. Beneath the surface, however, Purdue University reveals that "Mayflies constitute one of the most important groups of bottom dwelling animals in streams and rivers around the world" and that mayflies are actually useful in indicating water quality in their ecosystems. Adult mayflies may only live about a day or so but their presence as water nymphs (those weird little fly things you always see around lakes and ponds) are highly beneficial in ecosystems.

GET ME OUT

How to Escape An

So, you've decided to attempt to escape an escape room. You may have been in or even escaped a room before, but how do you ensure a victory? In short: you don't. But here are a few tips and tricks that could help you escape before the time runs out.

1: Don't Overcomplicate It!

The average person should be able to figure out the puzzles, so you won't need any outside knowledge. Escape rooms are meant to be fun, and if you read into potential clues too much, you will just end up wasting time and slow the flow of the game. If you can't figure out a puzzle, move on! There's a good chance that the missing piece hasn't been revealed yet.

2: Use Hints!

Sure, it's fun to try and solve a room on your own, but you are given hints for a reason, and if you want to actually escape, you're going to need them. Although, you don't want to overuse them, as you might have a limited amount of clues to complete the room. Come to a conclusion as a group to use one when you do! You don't want to be stuck on the last puzzle without a clue.

3: Trust Your Game Master!

Your game master is the person in charge - giving you hints if you are stuck, or helping you along if a puzzle does not work properly. Their entire purpose is to help you, and make sure everything is running smoothly. On a similar note, if there is a warning telling you to not touch or move something, don't touch or move it! The game master put it there for a reason. You don't want to be that one guy stuck messing with a pile of fake intestines while the rest of the group is actually being useful.

4: Search Well!

Everyone split up! The more people looking at different items, the more likely you'll find the clues you need. To save time, make sure you communicate what you find. Communication is key if you don't want to spend invaluable time looking at a puzzle that someone has already solved or found. Look for clues under tables, under rugs, in pockets of clothes, under other easily moved items, and other simple places! Everything you need should be within arms reach, so don't look in things like ceiling grates or other dangerous places.

5: Organize Your Stuff!

Both before and during the room, organize your belongings. Don't bring unnecessary items that restrict your movement and make it harder to escape. Most likely, there will be a place to put your belongings before you enter, but if not, you do not want to be stuck with a bulky bag on your person while, say, trying to escape handcuffs or crawl through a small space. Also, once you use a key or clue, keep it with the lock or puzzle it goes with, otherwise you might waste time trying to use it a second time. All clues and keys are typically only used one time, so there's no need to keep carrying them around once they are used.

OF HERE!

Escape Room

written by
MEGHAN KELLEY
designed by Thomas Hill

6: Pick a Good Team!

Make sure when inviting people to escape with you, you have a group that will work together well and can communicate what their findings are! Before the room starts, consider assigning roles to people to help move things along. For example, assign someone to be the person keeping track of where all potential clues are in the room, so if someone finds a certain lock or puzzle, they would know where that clue is and vice versa. Have someone else solve that puzzle, while the others are continuing to look around for other potential puzzles.

7: Know Your Locks!

There is a good chance your game master will cover this for you before you start your room, but if they don't, there are a few common locks in escape rooms: padlocks, numerical locks, letter or word locks, and directional locks. Padlocks are unlocked by some sort of key. Numerical locks are unlocked by entering certain numbers, and letter or word locks are solved by entering certain letters or words. Directional locks can move up, down, left, or right to be solved. They are a little more tricky, as they can have many different combinations, so be careful. If you can't get a lock to open, have someone else retry the

8: Know Your Codes!

There are some common codes used in escape rooms as well, including morse code and pigpen. While it may be handy to know these before entering the room, it's by no means required, as everything needed to solve a puzzle would be supplied to you in the room. Keys to these codes, if needed, should be somewhere in the room, like on posters, or in manuals.

9: Don't Ruin the Experience For Others!

When you are in the room, don't take pictures of the room or harm the decorations. People after you will use the same room, and will want the best experience possible. They will not be able to have that if answers to their room are spoiled online, or if their room is physically broken. You may also be liable to pay for any damage you cause to the room as well, so be careful.

10: Don't Be Afraid to Lose!

The whole point of the room is to have fun, and if you are too focused on winning the game, you won't have as good of an experience. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter whether you win or lose, so don't beat yourself up over it if you do end up not completing the room! You could always try again, and the game master will explain the puzzles you didn't have a chance to complete if you would like.

Overall, the main point of an escape room is to have fun and challenge yourself. As long as you do both, it will be a success! Good luck on your future escape room escapades!

DAMAGE

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

Inhibition is not metal. Thus, it did not stop the Gillepsie brothers from creating a heavy metal band. Founded by the eldest Gillepsie, TJ, Damage captures the attention of Fort Wayne music enthusiasts. Recently, the three brothers and their brother by choice opened for the Four Horseman, a renowned Metallica tribute band, at The Club Room at the Clyde.

Ironically, the ambitious members of Damage foresaw their collaboration with the Four Horseman.

"The first time we'd seen them was 2017, 2018, when Damage was first starting. We told them, 'Yeah, one of these days we're going to be playing with you guys.' And then we saw them, and the singer of the band was like, 'I remember a few years ago you guys said you started a band and said you were going to play with us. Congratulations,'" Alex Gillespie said.

Damage's beginnings are just as interesting. The Gillespies' uncles and grandmother introduced the brothers to metal. From there, they became committed players of Guitar Hero. That is, until they mastered the game. "The song that really started Damage, I guess, was Fade to Black by Metallica," Alex Gillespie said. For, it was the bridge rift in the song that inspired TJ Gillespie to pick up a real guitar and start Damage.

Damage playing at the Clyde. TJ Gillespie (far left), Noah Werner (center left), Alex Gillespie (center right), and Anthony Gillespie (far right).

Noah Werner (left) on bass and TJ Gillespie (right) on guitar.

Werner, too, learned his love of metal from his uncle. After receiving a moving box full old music albums from his uncle, Werner said, "I opened it up, and it was a bunch of old symphony acts, racer acts, Mr. Big, all of the bigger solo artists, and that got me into metal."

Once the members of Damage started playing metal, though, their passion only grew. Like any art form, metal is a vehicle of expression. Being able to relieve such expression often allows catharsis on the artist's behalf. Moreover, the expression of feelings is not necessarily the promotion of said feelings. Alex Gillespie, the second oldest Gillespie, said, "One thing I really like about metal is that it's a good outlet. The music sounds angry and everything, but it's not meant to promote anger... It's mainly about relief. It's a good way to let feelings out." This viewpoint is not singular to Alex Gillespie.

"My drums are my therapy. If I'm mad, I play my drums like a punching bag," Anthony Gillespie said.

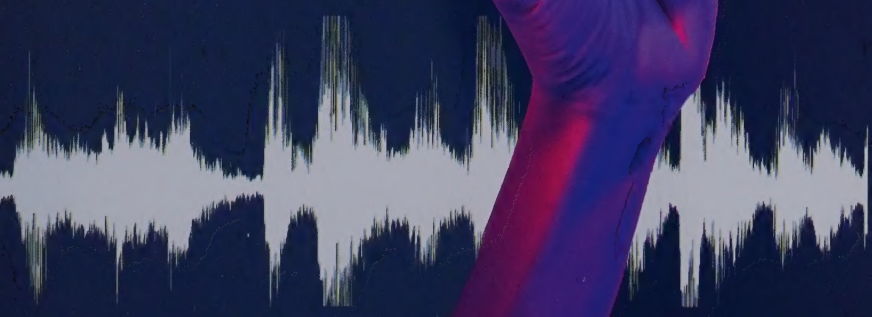
Such vigor in art does not go wasted. For, without passion, art is soulless. And, in a way, so are we. Anthony Gillespie said, "playing a show isn't something that I have to do. It's something that, if I didn't do it, I wouldn't be much. Music is the best thing for me personally to actually be able to feel right - like I'm actually something."

The Damage members recognize that this sentiment is universal. According to Alex Gillespie, "Pop music will talk about stuff they want to talk about. Metal, rock, RnB, blues, jazz, whatever, music in general is a great outlet."

Even the techniques which musicians use traverse genres.

"A lot of metal music has a lot of inspiration from classical music. You can take a look at some of the greatest guitar

Alex Gillespie soloing.



players, like Randy Rhoads, who was a violin player before guitar," Werner said. Rhoads played with the band Quiet Riot and, later on, played with Ozzy Osbourne. His classical background allowed him to expand the genre of metal guitar riffs into a new level of technicality.

Werner, himself, is somewhat of a technical genius - at least according to his partners.

"We are all right-handed. He's left-handed. He will pick up our right-handed guitars, play them upside down, and then play the riff," TJ Gillespie said. Furthermore, the riff that Werner wrong-handedly plays is often one that the other band members deem too difficult. While Werner's talent is evident, he still had to formally try out for the band. However, the Gillespies affirmed that his induction was without question.

Band members about to walk on stage at the Clyde. Anthony Gillespie is in front, with Noah Werner behind.

Together, with each band member contributing a different part, Damage has successfully created their debut album. TJ Gillespie works on the writing and rhythms, whereas Alex Gillespies plays the solos. Anthony Gillespie plays the drums, and Werner strums the bass.

Damage prevails not only from their musical familiarity, but also from their familial bonds.

"Everybody pushes each other to be a better member," Werner said.

However, as the band consists of a trio of brothers, there can be friction as well. Alex Gillespie said, "We don't really fight that often, but as we are brothers, we butt heads," Alex said.

As dedicated musicians, their serious fights often revolve around the band. For instance, the eldest Gillespie brothers, TJ and Alex, once battled over the execution of a certain song. Their disagreement was so intense that it nearly caused the dissolution of the band.

Luckily, just as a passion for music instigated their conflict, it also resolved it.

"The opening track on the album, Awakening, actually stopped them from killing each other," Anthony Gillespie said.

Awakening is not the only track with a humorous

SPOTIFY QR CODE

background. Fall Out, one of the band's favorite songs, came to TJ Gillespie's head at Homestead. TJ Gillespie said, "I actually wrote that song in Mr. Byall's class. It just popped into my head, and I grabbed a notebook and wrote it the entire class. I didn't get anything done, I had to ask people for the notes. The whole time I was just sitting there writing. That day, I went home, polished it some more, and that was the song."

Indeed, creativity can spring from anywhere - even during a lecture about the houses of Congress.

However, good music is just one component of a successful band. Showmanship is the other. Damage certainly lacks neither. The photos depict they are exhilarating to watch. Find them on Spotify, or virtually any music platform, and you will find that they are thrilling to hear.

And, for foreign visitors in the realm of metal, TJ Gillespie said, "If you're wanting to experiment in that genre, I would say Iron Maiden and Van Halen are a really good start."

Or, for aspiring musicians, the band's creator said, "Being a musician is just something that if you're dedicated enough, anybody could do it."

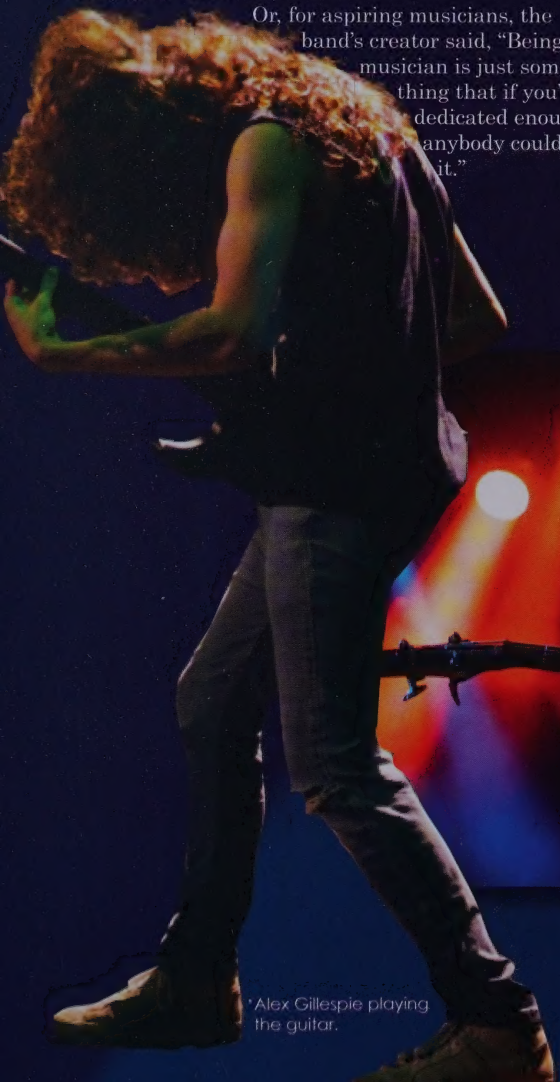
BAND FAVORITES

TJ: FALL OUT

ALEX: FALL OUT & END STATE

ANTHONY: END STATE

NOAH: FATAL SOLUTION

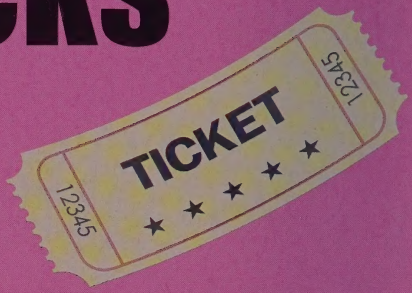


Alex Gillespie playing the guitar.

Noah Werner playing the bass.

Chick Flicks

written and designed by
KEALYNN TUNKS



Chick flicks are timeless films for everyone to enjoy. To put it simply, a chick flick is a film with a female lead trying to solve a specific problem - a basic format with plenty of room for creative freedom. The lightheartedness is what draws people in time and time again; the simplicity of this genre cannot be topped by any other kind of film.

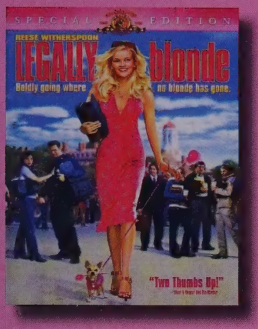
But where did they originate from? The name chick flick came from the 1930s where the genre was separate: women's film and women's cinema. Women's films were created by men, and women's cinema were all made by women. Be sure not to confuse the two. The women's cinema movies were an enormous step for the women's rights movement going on at the time.

The history of chick flicks is what makes them so glamorous. Despite the name, chick flicks can be enjoyed by everyone and anyone, and should not be limited to one gender. Even though the name is exclusive, everyone can bask in their splendor. With the changing times, the name has stuck, but the definition has changed a great amount.

One might argue that the chick flick is more of an umbrella term when it comes to other movies with a similar format, but I believe they differentiate in many ways. Rom-Coms, which often share major plot points with chick flicks, are also considered to be one of the best genres of movies, along with chick flicks. Undoubtedly, the two share first place. The position of first place would be impossible to give to one or the other when they are both just as amazing. Veronica Wesner (11) said that her "favorite chick flick is either Mean Girls or Clueless," which are two classics that have been enjoyed by many for years.

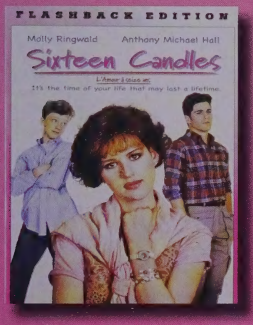
Mendez (11) also said one of her favorite chick flicks is "Clueless," which seems to be a recurring theme in the forever ongoing battle for first place. Many a time, friends will come together for a night to binge-watch all their favorite chick flicks and Rom-Coms. However, they are often hit with the minute setback of, "Which movies do we choose?" But this suffering is bound to end, as I have already compiled a list. the right mix of female empowerment, romance, and humor. To the right, there are movies in which you can integrate into your binge-watching rampage. They all have been highly rated and watched with glee time and time again. Now you can enjoy these timeless classics in the comfort of your own home.

ures courtesy of Amazon



"Legally Blonde" ★★★★ 2001

Elle Woods (Reece Witherspoon) has everything, but when it comes to love, all she wants is to become Mrs. Warner Huntington III. Before she thinks he's going to propose, he breaks up with her because she is "too blonde." Elle works day in and day out to get into Harvard to win back her supposed Prince Charming

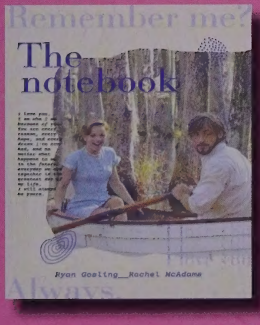

FLASHBACK EDITION
Molly Ringwald
Anthony Michael Hall
Sixteen Candles
It's the time of your life that may last a lifetime.

"Sixteen Candles" ★★★★ 1984

Samantha (Molly Ringwald) faces her 16th birthday with the dread that comes from the constant reminder of her sister's upcoming wedding. She longs for an older guy, Jake, but worries some aspects will drive him away. Worried about driving away one boy, she's trying to purposely drive away another, Ted, a nerdy boy who seems to take a particular interest in her.

"Clueless" ★★★★★ 1995

Rich, shallow, popular Cher (Alicia Silverstone) is at the top of the social ladder. After coaxing two teachers into dating each other, a new girl, Tai, comes into town and Cher sees it as an opportunity to give her a makeover. However, Tai becomes more popular than Cher and it makes her realize there's more to life than just popularity...



"The Notebook" ★★★★★ 2004

Samantha (Molly Ringwald) faces her 16th birthday with the dread that comes from the constant reminder of her sister's upcoming wedding. She longs for an older guy, Jake, but worries some aspects will drive him away. Worried about driving away one boy, she's trying to purposely drive away another, Ted, a nerdy boy who seems to take a particular interest in her.

Homestead Theatre's LEND ME A TENOR

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

After being canceled last year due to everyone's favorite coronavirus pandemic, Homestead's fall play has made its magnificent return. And let me say, having personally seen this marvelous masterpiece of ironic comedy, it was phenomenal. If you weren't able to make it to the play, I honestly pity your loss. The actors were completely in character, from perfect accents to hilarious mannerisms. The set was absolutely perfect for the play, with plenty of doors for the actors to display their comedic genius, and the play itself was written with the best dramatic irony I've ever seen. And yes, I know that no one from Homestead wrote the play, but the execution of the dramatic irony was terrific. I honestly don't think I stopped laughing during the entire experience.

For those of you who missed it (and those of you who've forgotten), Lend Me a Tenor is the story of what goes on behind the scenes of an opera. It opens with the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, Henry Saunders **(Michael Mazza, 12)**, waiting at the hotel for the star of the opera, Tito Merelli **(Alejandro Tinnell, 11)** to arrive from Italy. His assistant Max **(Parker Bowman, 12)** and his daughter Maggie **(Cassandra Rentfrow, 12)** are also there (those two sometimes date, by the way). It's important to note that Maggie is very attracted to Tito and wants to have a "fling" with him, if you know what I mean. When Tito arrives with his wife Maria **(Bethany Perkins, 11)**, they are fighting because Tito likes to flirt with other women. Needless to say, everything is set up for chaos (especially since Maggie happens to be hiding in Tito's closet).

The hilarity continues as Maria finds Maggie in the closet and decides to leave Tito, leaving a note behind. Before leaving, however, she has already given Tito his sleeping pills, something Max is unaware of when he tricks Tito into drinking some crushed-up sleeping pills. Tito, now friendly with Max thanks to the wine, gives him a singing lesson. Then, Tito goes to bed- and doesn't wake up because of the sleeping pills. Max finds the note Maria left and assumes it's a suicide note. Saunders arrives and the pair think Tito is dead. Saunders convinces Max to get into costume and fill in for Tito and the two leave for the theater. As soon as they leave, Tito wakes up.

Photo courtesy of Katelyn Styborski

This leads into the second act, which opens after the opera. Max was very successful in his performance, but there is a madman dressed up in costume on the run from the police. This madman is none other than Tito, who returns to the hotel room. This leads to a number of crazy incidents where Max and Tito are constantly trading places and being mixed up. The madness culminates as Maggie and Diana **(Rachel Lopez, 12)**, the Cleveland Opera's soprano, both attempt to seduce Tito at the same time and have "flings" with the two simultaneously (because, of course, there are two Titos in play). In the end, Maria returns and all the characters end up in the same place at once. Max manages to quickly change and the ruse remains undiscovered. While all these shenanigans are going on, Julia **(Catherine Ahlersmeyer, 11)**, the elderly chairwoman of the Cleveland Opera, is also trying to seduce Tito (a little creepy, I know) and the bellhop **(Ren Moore, 11)** is trying to get Tito's picture and autograph.

The play ends romantically, as Maggie realizes that Max was the one she "flinged" with and the one who performed at the opera that night. They kiss and the play ends. Once again, the irony in this play was en pointe and the show's comedy was ingenious. Now, let's dig into what the cast thought about the play in some behind-the-scenes interview questions!

WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST MEMORY FROM THE PLAY?

Cassandra: Our tech people probably hate it, but I think it's hilarious every time one of the doorknobs falls off the doors during a run. (It happens a lot, and it's usually Michael/Saunders' fault for slamming a door too hard.)

Rachel: Some of my funniest memories came from the downtime during rehearsals. Many of us would goof off while we had 5-10 minute breaks which would often result in one of us rolling on the ground laughing and plenty of photos and videos to look back on.

Ren: After Parker and Rachel's first run of their kiss in Act 1 Scene 2-- we were all watching from our spots backstage-- Rachel threw herself to the floor in embarrassment. Most of the kisses were hilarious: Alex breaking his neck against the back of the couch, Parker lifting his leg oddly every time he had a kiss with Cassie, Rachel throwing herself to the floor. Also, the Pagliacci (pah-lee-ah-chee) makeup made Parker and Alex look like the joker; there were a lot of "society" jokes backstage.

Catherine: The cast likes to poke fun at Parker about how every time he kisses someone, he lifts his leg either behind him or out to the side.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING IN THE PLAY?

Catherine: My favorite part of being in the show is that I know everyone. This is my first speaking role in an HHS production and it has been made immensely easier by being able to interact with people I've been friends with for as long as 5th grade.

Alejandro: My favorite part about being in the play is the fun costumes, fun accents, and the good times I have with the rest of the cast.

Parker: My favorite part has been acting with old and new friends.

Cassandra: We only have five weeks to put this together, and we still managed to become a family in such a short time. I love these guys a lot.

Ren: The opening night was magical. It was as if the stage came to life; everyone (including myself!) improved drastically out of the blue, connecting with their characters and role. It was 10 times better than any of our rehearsals.

ANY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS?

Alejandro: There have been a few embarrassing moments during the rehearsals and the first few kisses on stage were a bit awkward but everything definitely got easier over time.

Parker: Forgetting a line ten seconds into the show...that was rough.

Rachel: While all cast members have had multiple embarrassing moments, I'd say my worst was the first time I had to practice the kiss I have with Tito (Alex) I ended up getting practically bitten by my co-star!

Cassandra: Me getting a door slammed open in my face (I won't name names), which led to me tripping on my gown and falling hard on my hands and knees. My face turned bright red in about 0.5 seconds.

Catherine: My character, Julia, has to get very close and personal with the opera singer, Tito, played by one of my closest friends from back in middle school, Alejandro. It's easier than being close with a stranger, so I'm very blessed.

WHAT WAS SOMETHING IMPROVISED/THROWN IN ON THE SPOT?

Rachel: For my character (Diana) and the character Max (Parker), something my director threw in after any scene I have with Max is that once I have exited the scene, Max has to do a shiver out to the audience as if he was severely uncomfortable with what just went down between our characters.

Parker: We've kept mostly faithful to the script, but we did add some words to Max and Tito's vocal warmup to make it funnier.

Cassandra: Today during our final rehearsal, Parker/Max missed his cue to come onstage by about 30 seconds. We wrote in roughly half of a new scene by ourselves on the spot to stall for time.

Ren: Not really improvised, but on opening night, Alex's costume pants got stuck in the door during an entrance and he had to double back to fix it. The audience loved it, they lost their minds. It was an accident, but it ended up being a crowd favorite of the evening.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE SCHOOLWORK AND PREPARATION FOR THE PLAY?

Cassandra: ... you don't.

Rachel: Quite honestly I don't! I struggle with the balance because in my mind, my top priority at the moment is the play and schoolwork gets done whenever I have free time in the day that isn't devoted to the play.

Ren: Personally? I don't. When overwhelmed, I tend to shut down and only focus on what is Required Right Then. When I'm in a show, it's lazer focus on only that. I feel bad for my teachers, as if I'm letting them down, but there's not much I can do to make it up to them at this point in the semester.

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HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY CREATE YOUR OWN CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

written and designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

Ten years ago, scrolling through GoFundMe would have been a significantly less mentally draining affair, as projects mostly consisted of fundraising for indie video games, aiding small business ventures and helping local musicians to record albums. Nowadays, GoFundMe has become the number one destination for those who have found themselves in unfortunate circumstances and are strapped for cash. Fundraisers are created by those seeking to pay off medical expenses, cover memorial fees and recover from natural disasters. Through crowdfunding, they hope to meet their goals.

Crowdfunding is essentially funding a project through small amounts of money from a large group of strangers. This way, the people running the project have a higher chance of reaching their goals. Crowdfunding gained newfound popularity with the advent of the Internet, as it made crowdfunding far easier and more accessible than it had ever been before. GoFundMe is nothing new; in fact, sites like Kickstarter and Indiegogo have existed before GoFundMe. Certainly, GoFundMe has the features to make an impression on their consumer base, as Christopher Kohrman (12) calls it "simple" and "easy". However, it is the first one to hold such prominence in fundraising for medical expenses or related costs. One third of all projects and fundraisers on the site are related to medical costs, and for that reason GoFundMe has become the largest crowdfunding site on the Internet.

Last donation 1m ago

$148,543 raised of $200,000

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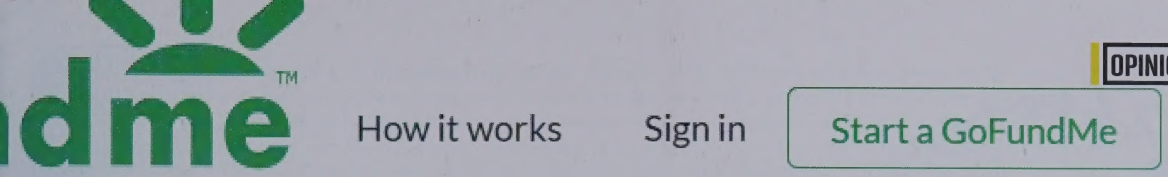
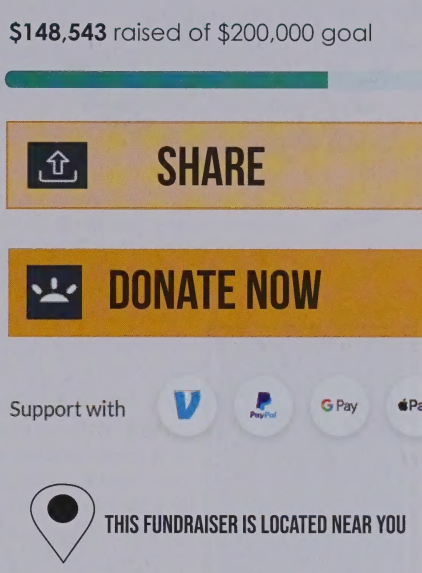


A CONVINCING STORY

Storytelling has long been the premier art of mankind, able to inspire and incite the masses. It is crucial to attract attention to an important cause and there is no better way than telling a good story. There has to be a strong beginning, say a wholesome hard-working suburban family; then comes the middle, the conflict, an unforeseen circumstance that turns their whole world upside down; and finally, everyone likes happy endings. Family, friends and random strangers can ensure that this hardworking family's happy ending happens through financial means. Even you can be a hero.

It may seem insensitive to minimize peoples' suffering to a storyline, as if their lives are simply lines in movies, plays or books, but that is exactly what crowdfunding requires of them. Social storytelling has consequences. It makes these stories seem like individual problems, and refuses to acknowledge the society that caused them in the first place. Why couldn't the hardworking suburban family pay off medical costs? Did one of the members have pre-existing conditions that made them ineligible for certain insurance? Why aren't their pre-existing conditions covered? Why aren't rising out of pocket costs being addressed?

In addition to this, it is easy to mimic these storylines and create fraudulent scams on the GoFundMe platform. GoFundMe claims that less than one tenth of one percent of its campaigns are fake, but there is evidence that states this may not be the case. For one, GoFundMe does not fact check the campaigns that are posted. There is no minimal evidence that a person needs to provide for them to start collecting money. For some especially convincing campaigns, strangers could fall victim to their own generosity.



THE RIGHT ATTENTION

A campaign cannot raise money without people sharing it. Time is of the essence, so it has to grab a stranger's attention. A campaigner can first invite their friends and family to donate, then through the fear of missing out, strangers will feel the need to donate as well. A campaign can have a story that tugs at the heartstrings, but the story does nothing if no one is paying attention to it. There are so many fundraisers and projects on GoFundMe that it is easy for one campaign to get lost amongst the crowd.

For this reason, it is necessary to have a network of people and connections to make sure your campaign is seen. Having someone more well-known than yourself is a surefire way to make sure your project goals are met. However, most people seeking to make these campaigns do not typically have the connections they need.

But certain campaigns with a compelling enough story might be contacted by P.R. firms. These firms make promises of 'selling' the people behind the campaign and ensuring that more strangers see them and donate. Unfortunately, a cut of the money received from donations would go to the P.R. company, and not towards the noble cause that it was originally intended for.

It is recommended that for certain campaigns, like those that seek to fundraise for transplants, post their campaigns onto sites that are meant for that goal. Fundraisers have a better chance of meeting that goal, as it won't get lost against the myriad of all the other fundraisers. It may not be as attractive as GoFundMe, but people can still achieve the same goal.

RECOMENDATIONS

GoFundMe was never meant to be a form of health insurance for those who cannot get it in any other way. Their platform was never equipped to handle such time-sensitive issues that deal with people's lives. Undoubtedly, GoFundMe has been helpful for several campaigns that end in success, however it has also left many slipping through the cracks. For those in need of crowdfunding for emergencies or medical costs, it is recommended that you seek out a website built specifically for crowdfunding what you need. There are other, less flashy, options out there. GoFundMe and crowdfunding are not at fault; it is the institutions that have caused people to resort to desperate measures. It is time that healthcare and insurance systems undergo a metamorphosis to support the people in the United States, rather than actively work against them.

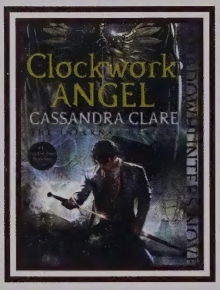
The Book Nook: FALL IS FOR FAMILY

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

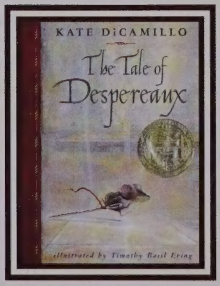
In honor of Thanksgiving (one of my favorite holidays and the BEST fall holiday), I felt that it was time to revive The Book Nook, a column I wrote last year. In this edition of the Book Nook, I'm reviewing books about family- both blood family and found family. I've selected a series, a trilogy and a standalone novel in each category, so let us dive into the fantastic world of family-centered literature!

FOUND FAMILY

The Heroes of Olympus Series- Perhaps-no, not perhaps- definitely Rick Riordan's best series to date, the Heroes of Olympus series is focused on the journey of the Seven (prophesied demigods) and their friends as they embark on a quest to save the world from, well, itself. A little confusing, I know, but you'll get it once you start reading. You'll never encounter a more familial group of friends in young adult fiction and I promise that you will want to be a part of this world with all of your being. This series was actually my introduction to Rick Riordan's universe of mythology and I've never looked back. If you are a fellow mythology geek, a fan of fantasy, an aficionado of adventure or even just looking for an engaging series, this series should be at the top of your list!

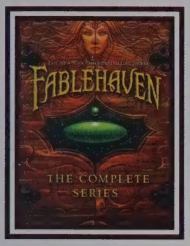


The Infernal Devices Trilogy- Part of Cassandra Clare's intricately woven Shadowhunters universe, the Infernal Devices trilogy is by far one of the best series she's ever written. Set in 1800s England, the adventures of mysterious Tessa, testy Will and tranquil Jem will get your steampunk nerd sense tingling. Vampires, werewolves, demons - this trilogy has it all. As for found family, the bonds between these characters are heartbreakingly deep, and I promise you'll be left with an immense sadness after the series ends. Read this if you're into steampunk, sad books or just good-old classic demon hunting!

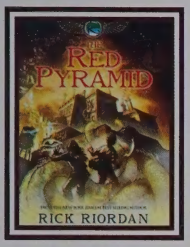


The Tale of Despereaux- Think of this book as the original and infinitely superior Ratatouille. Forget a rat that learns to cook- how about a mouse named Despereaux who learns how to read? This book is a quick read and is simply a heartwarming experience. Despereaux, a mouse, learns to read and falls in love with Pea, a human princess in the castle he lives in. This sets off an adventure in which he meets Miggery Sow, a serving girl, and Roscuro, a rat, who quickly become his found family. If you want a quick read with a great story about being true to oneself and fighting for your dreams, this adventure story is for you!

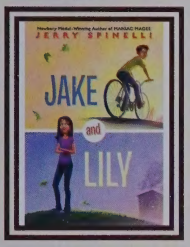
BLOOD FAMILY



Fablehaven & Dragonwatch Series- Picture this- your parents are going on a cruise and you have to go stay with your weird grandparents in the middle of nowhere. Everything is exceedingly boring but something seems off... in a magical way. That's the premise of the Fablehaven series, which is amazing. Two siblings, Kendra and Seth, are caught up in the drama of the magical world that their grandparents are part of. If you have a sibling, you'll instantly connect to the story and it's easy to be drawn into the world of Fablehaven. Family-centered adventure lovers, this one's for you!



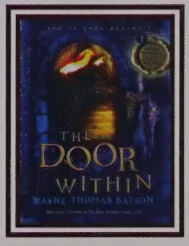
The Kane Chronicles Trilogy- I know I've already had a Rick Riordan series on here, but he's just such a great author I had to include this one. Sadie and Carter Kane are brother and sister who only see each other a few times a year. One Christmas, they accompany their archaeologist father to a museum and quickly become embroiled in the world of Egyptian mythology. And by embroiled, I don't mean interested in studying-I mean being attacked by giant lion goddesses. This trilogy is perfect for lovers of Ancient Egypt, mythology and those with teenage siblings!



Jake and Lily- One of the few non-fantasy recommendations on this list, Jake and Lily is a heartwarming novel about two siblings, Jake and Lily. The two are inseparable until they turn eleven and their parents decide it's time for separate bedrooms. Lily has to learn how to make friends on her own as Jake begins to hang out with a group of neighborhood boys, This novel will make you laugh, cry and everything in between. It is the epitome of a family-centered novel and is perfect for those seeking a sense of nostalgia this Thanksgiving!

A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH

Keeper of the Lost Cities Series- The one word I would use to describe this series is epic. Not epic in the sense of cool, but epic in the sense of The Odyssey. The series is centered around Sophie Foster, a girl with telepathic powers who discovers that she is actually an elf. She enters the world of the Lost Cities, filled with elves and other mythical creatures and discovers that she is no ordinary elf. Even though the series is long, it's an easy read and has a cast of characters that you won't want to miss. With aspects of found family and a series-long mystery surrounding Sophie's blood family, this a great read for anyone wanting to be immersed into a fantastical world of mystery and adventure!



The Door Within Trilogy- This trilogy is one of my all-time favorites, and I've reread it more times than I can count. Aidan, the main character, is your typical high school nerd - into medieval knights, dragons and lonely after moving halfway across the country to care for his grandfather. Then he discovers mysterious scrolls in the basement and is drawn into a medieval parallel world. The trilogy develops Aidan's family and family found through friendship as he seeks to bring more people to believe in this world. A moving parallel for Christianity, the writing is exceptional and the characters eerily realistic. I recommend this for everyone to read ASAP, whatever you normally like, because there's something for everyone in this trilogy!

Wonder- Perhaps one of the most touching novels I've read in my life, Wonder is about Auggie, a boy who was born with genetic deformities and is entering public school for the first time. Using different perspectives in each chapter better than any other novel does, you will empathize deeply with the trials and tribulations that Auggie faces as he attempts to have a regular middle school career. The story is bittersweet as you cheer Auggie on and are filled with righteous anger on his behalf. You'll empathize with his sister's struggles and be filled with overwhelming respect for the kindness that every human is capable of. Just like every person in the novel, you'll be changed by your experience with Auggie!

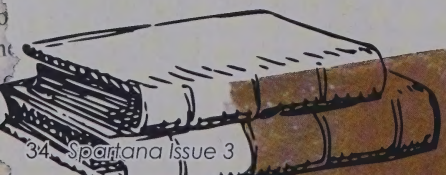
Academic Analysis

written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE

English class. The name strikes fear into the souls of high school students. Reading? For a grade? The very idea of it is absurd to most. But what's the reason for this, and how does English class look from an English teacher's perspective?

So why exactly do students dislike English class? The reason varies between students. For some students, they have no reason at all. Everyone has their own likes and dislikes. For others, however, their disregard for English may be due to struggles with comprehension of literature. One student here at Homestead says that they are "more 'left brained'" and "prefer doing math puzzles over reading, which requires more creativity and intuition." They state that their "relationship with reading isn't the best" and they have "never been that interested in it." While left brain versus right brain is just a theory, it is important to note that some students have harder times understanding literature than others. Seems like a perfectly valid reason to dislike reading to me.

Ms. Rauber teaches English 9 for academic and honors classes at Homestead. Like all 9th grade students, her academic classes read *To Kill a Mockingbird, Romeo and Juliet,* and *Lord of the Flies* while her honors classes read *The Odyssey, Romeo and Juliet, Pride and Prejudice, To Kill a Mockingbird,* and *Great Expectations.* For most of you reading this, these titles will sound very familiar, and they might even bring back the horror of creating lists of annotations for your first-ever essays. When asked about what book students dislike the most, Rauber says "*The Odyssey* because it is an epic poem" although "the kids who are into mythology really like it." In my opinion, this is not exactly true (I'm an avid mythology lover). I digress. When it comes to which books students like the most, Rauber cannot say because opinions vary greatly between students. Two students, Carolyn Kenefic (10) and Lilly Hahn (10), both said that their favorite book in 9th grade was *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In terms of genre, Rauber says "most students enjoy drama because they get to read it with their classmates and have the enjoyment of acting and reading together." However, Rauber makes a point to note that "in high school we focus exclusively on literature in class and not what publishers and bookstores would call genre literature, like thrillers, fantasy, or historical fiction." Last but not least, Rauber says that could only take one book with her to a deserted island, she would choose *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare because "the layers and complexity offer new understanding every time I read it."



Graphics by Canva

Mr. Beer teaches Honors English 10 and Travel Writing. Beer's Honor English class read *Macbeth, Frankenstein, Jane Eyre, The Scarlet Letter, The Great Gatsby, Death of a Salesman*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*. For his Travel Writing class, Beer's students read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson and *Writing Tools* by Roy Peter Clark. His favorite book is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Beer says, "I've read it at least ten times and each year I look forward to re-reading it with the students. It gets better each time." Beer says that "for Honors English 10, students seem to enjoy *The Great Gatsby* and *Jane Eyre* the most, with *Frankenstein* or *Death of a Salesman* coming up behind those." Makayla Henline (11) says that her favorite book as a sophomore was *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. This book is a personal favorite of mine, too. For the least-liked book, Beer says "either *Macbeth* or *The Scarlet Letter*. *Macbeth* is largely because of the difficulty, though." Oftentimes, students get anxious when given a book with more than 200 pages, so I turned to Beer for some explanation. He says, "*Jane Eyre* is our longest book and there are often grunts and grimaces when I first pass it out… while length of the book may be an indicator of enjoyment for high school students in general, I wouldn't say it plays out that way in Honors English 10." Rauber says the same thing about English 9, too. She does not think there is a correlation between the length of the book and how much it is liked, but she does "think some students get...big book fear." Reading books that get increasingly larger can help overcome this fear. Rauber offers some unexpected advice, too: "A book is like a life; if it is a good one, then length is an advantage to all involved."

While English may not be especially well liked, the class still offers a little something for everyone, whether that is writing, reading, or sleeping (yes, I know you're falling asleep in the back of the room. It's pretty obvious). If you can, try to enjoy English as much as possible because we all know you probably won't read another book when you're done with school.

GINGERS

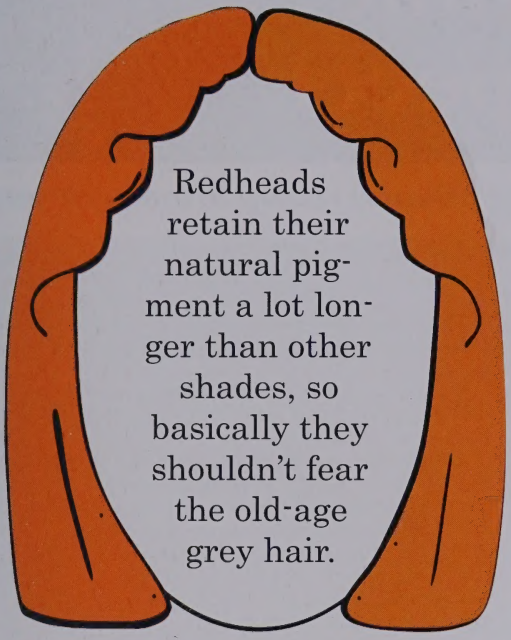
written and designed by
KATE HUTNER

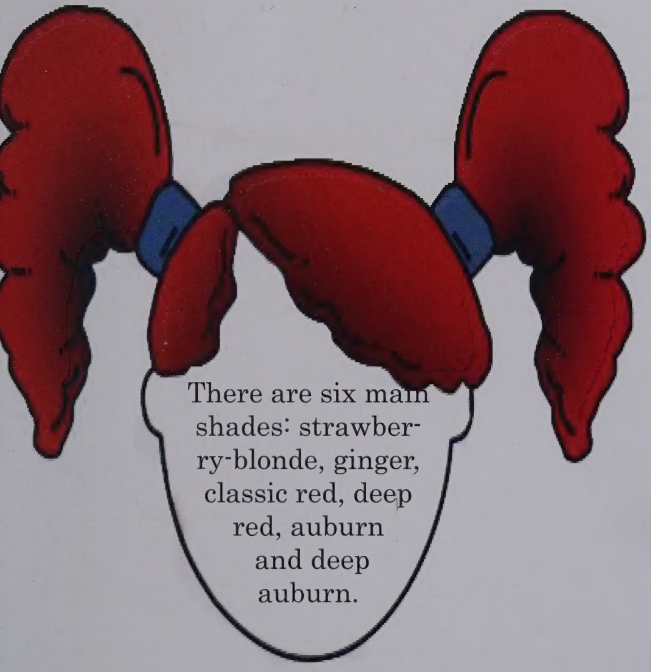
You are sitting in your sixth period class, and, out of the corner of your eye, you notice a flaming red blob. What could this be? Has there been a fire? As you turn your head to acknowledge the glowing red area, you feel even more on edge. It is, indeed, a ginger. You have heard about them before, remembering the sayings that gingers have no souls and are possibly witches, but you have never witnessed one in person. You glare with confusion. This person seems harmless, just like every other human in your class (but a little paler). However, you have always had this suspicion that they are their own kind, their own species. You are intrigued, but don't have the courage to inch closer and observe. Don't worry; that's why I am here. You can stay in your seat and learn about gingers from a distance, and then, only if you gain the courage and knowledge about gingers, you might even be willing to venture and talk to the one in your class. I swear, we don't bite.

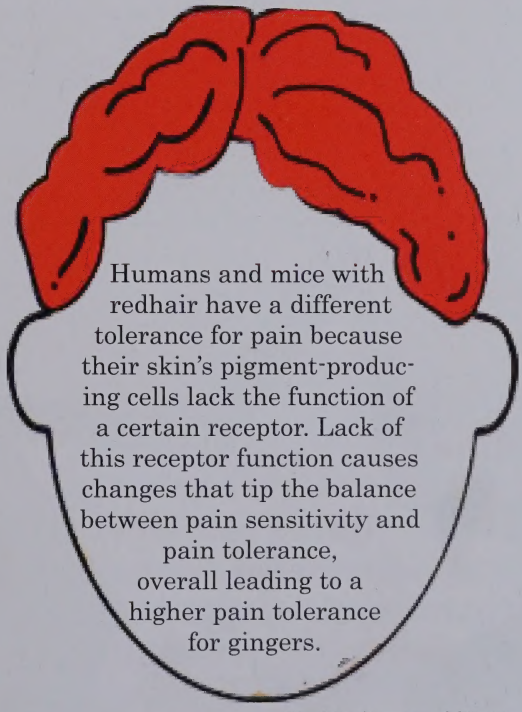
Although having ginger hair may be considered a warning sign of a witch or a person with no soul, there is a bigger picture to be seen. Red hair is the rarest hair color in the world, with only 1-2 percent of the world's population carrying it. In addition, if you have red hair with blue eyes, you are considered the rarest of all, with only a million people possessing this combination of traits. This is due to blue eyes being recessive, as well as red hair, leading to a double recessive trait. So, if gingers are so rare, then why are they so hated instead of praised? Where did the misconceptions about them begin? Are they truly safe to be around, or do you need to watch your back in the halls?

The basis of the stereotype appears to have begun in Ancient Egypt and Greece. Gingers were viewed in two different manners, seen as either evil witches or as praise-worthy gods. When archeologists found the mummies of Egyptian pharaohs, they discovered that several had reddish pigments. Around 500 BC, the first redhead was mentioned by Xenophanes, an Ancient Greek poet who established a god with red hair and blue eyes - just like the ginger in the back of your anatomy class, right? Also, the Acropolis museum in Athens holds statues of ginger women displayed for their honor. In contrast, the Ancient Greeks also believed that gingers turned into vampires after death. So gingers were not always praised. Like the Greeks, the Egyptians had mixed feelings as well, believing redheads were unlucky and should be sacrificed, even buried alive, to show their god that they wanted to end the bad luck.

Nowadays, every ginger has at least experienced one ginger remark, whether that be the classic "you have no soul" or the more in depth comment of "pumpkin head" or "carrot top". Luckily we do not face as harsh of a harassment as our kind did in the past, but the issue still stands. According to Cole Steinacker (11), one of the rare red individuals at HHS, he does indeed "think gingers will forever be a joke in society" but has "never taken any of the ginger jokes to heart". Although gingers have been joked about and have had misconceptions about them in the past, the jokes about gingers are often taken to humor for most. Nova Bennett (12), another ginger amongst HHS, enjoys the classic line of "gingers have no souls." She "likes when people tell her she has no soul, because it's true". Maybe the next time you see a ginger roaming the halls or out in the wild, you will be more open-minded, no longer thinking they have no soul, but rather admiring their fiery hair and their rarity.


Redheads retain their natural pigment a lot longer than other shades, so basically they shouldn't fear the old-age grey hair.




Humans and mice with redhair have a different tolerance for pain because their skin's pigment-producing cells lack the function of a certain receptor. Lack of this receptor function causes changes that tip the balance between pain sensitivity and pain tolerance, overall leading to a higher pain tolerance for gingers.

Graphics Courtesy of Clipart

The Importance of Free Speech

written and designed by
ELAINA SCHILT

The freedom of speech gives us the ability to speak our minds without the fear of imprisonment, punishment or censorship.

It allows for journalists to do their job and for American citizens to freely criticize the government.

However, that crucial foundation upon which our nation was built is slowly being chipped away.

Most of us, as Americans, likely take the freedom of speech for granted. We don't know what it's like to live in a place where saying the wrong thing could put our lives at risk.

It doesn't occur to most that in far too many countries across the world, speaking out against the government could have grave consequences.

The First Amendment grants the freedom of speech, and it is one of the most important rights guaranteed to Americans by the United States Constitution.

Because of the major role that American newspapers played in the Revolutionary War, the freedoms of speech and press were extremely important to the founding fathers.

That's why it made its way into the Bill of Rights along with many other important guarantees, such as freedom of religion, freedom to assembly and the right to keep and bear arms.

Free speech gave past Americans the power to accomplish many changes that were crucial to the development of the nation.

For example, powerful voices of leaders like Frederick Douglass were essential to the abolitionist movement in the mid 1800s.

"Freedom of speech provides opportunity to those who would normally have no say." Karsten Johnson (10)

The women's suffrage movement was made possible by the passionate words of activists such as Susan B. Anthony during the early 1900s.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s compelling speeches of the Civil Rights era would not have been heard by millions without the freedom of speech.

The first amendment states that no law can be made that restricts the "freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

One thing that all of these influential historical heroes had in common was that they weren't afraid to stand up for what they believed in, even if it meant going against the mainstream way of thinking.

It was the first amendment that facilitated these great movements in American history, and without it, that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s compelling speeches of the Civil Rights era would not have been heard by millions without the freedom of speech.

One thing that all of these influential historical heroes had in common was that they weren't afraid to stand up for what they believed in, even if it meant going against the mainstream way of thinking.

It was the first amendment that facilitated these great movements in American history, and without it, America would not be the free country that it is today.

Many people around the world are not granted the freedom of speech.

In countries such as Cuba and North Korea, totalitarian governments see information as a threat to their power, and therefore heavily restrict media and speech.

North Korea is infamous for its ruthless intolerance of political dissenters.

The nation has a system of camps where political prisoners are starved or worked to death, many of them imprisoned just for criticizing the government.

Cuba is another nation where the people have little freedom.

According to the Cuban Constitution, media and speech are allowed as long as they exist within the "objectives of socialist society" and are not "contrary to the Revolution."

Censorship of the Cuban media is commonplace. There are no privately owned media outlets in Cuba.

Rather, all media is controlled by the government. Only five percent of homes in Cuba are connected to the internet.

However, with the internet also being heavily censored, there is little difference between it and the state-run media.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Our freedom of speech is under attack. Why is it important to defend it?

People in Cuba who criticize the government in any way are thrown in jail for long periods of time, often without a trial.

Even in democratic nations like the United Kingdom, freedom of speech is dying. So-called "hate speech" is punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Something is considered hate speech if the victim believes that the comment was motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, or sexual orientation.

The problem is that these accusations could be completely subjective; they could be based on bias or opinions about the alleged perpetrator.

Also, giving the government the power to determine what constitutes hate speech brings our society closer to authoritarianism, which could have grave consequences.

Though dissenting speech is not legally punishable in the United States yet, we are getting closer to this reality every day.

Several companies hold enormous amounts of influence and power over the American people.

Social media platforms, once a place for civil public discourse, have now become a forum for cancellations and ostracization.

You could be fired from your job, disowned by your friends and shunned by society if you dare to speak out against the hostile mob that lurks online.

Piers Morgan, J.K. Rowling, Shane Dawson, Justin Timberlake, Nicki Minaj, Matt Damon, Kirstie Alley and Chris Pratt are just some of the well-known individuals who have fallen victim to the toxic cancel culture.

Their crime? Saying something that was deemed unacceptable by "Big Tech".

When these people are publicly shamed, it creates an atmosphere of fear. It discourages people from speaking their minds for fear of being ostracized.

This behavior creates a society where, eventually, there will be no discussion among people with varying opinions.

When there is no opposition to mainstream ideas, there is no diversity in thought and this is a dangerous state for a nation to be in.

The censorship of alleged misinformation has also become common on many social media platforms.

Youtube, the world's largest video-sharing website, has recently added to its policy, saying that it will not tolerate "medical misinformation that contradicts local health authorities' or the World Health Organization's (WHO) medical information about COVID-19."

Many creators have been censored and demonetized for violating these guidelines.

"Fact checkers" are becoming prevalent on social media sites such as Facebook, where they flag and even remove content that they believe is misinformation.

Doctors who shared data that was contradictory to the narrative of the WHO or CDC during the pandemic were temporarily suspended or sometimes banned from their accounts for spreading alleged misinformation relating to COVID-19.

For example, videos of two Californian doctors, Dan Erickson and Artin Massihi, were removed from Youtube because they suggested that lockdowns were unnecessary and that Covid death rates were exaggerated.

By allowing Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and other social media platforms to censor individuals and remove insight that contradicts that of the CDC, we are allowing these companies to make decisions for us.

Instead of taking it upon ourselves to evaluate the accuracy of this alleged misinformation and do our own research on the topic, we are giving up that privilege by allowing tech companies to take down information that does not align with the mainstream narrative.

Even if you agree with the majority now, there may come a time when you don't.

You may then find yourself cancelled. This is why it's critical to defend everyone's right to free speech, even those with whom you disagree.

As many people do, at times I disagree with what others say. However, I would eagerly defend anyone's right to speak their mind, regardless of my personal opinion.

Having the right to speak up and share our opinions also gives us the power to think for ourselves.

Instead of creating a society where dissenting or unpopular voices are suppressed, we should welcome differing opinions. This is the only way that free speech and the good that comes with it will survive.

By sharing our opinions with others and allowing them to do the same, we are creating a society that promotes acceptance and encourages the lively discussions that are essential to our way of life.

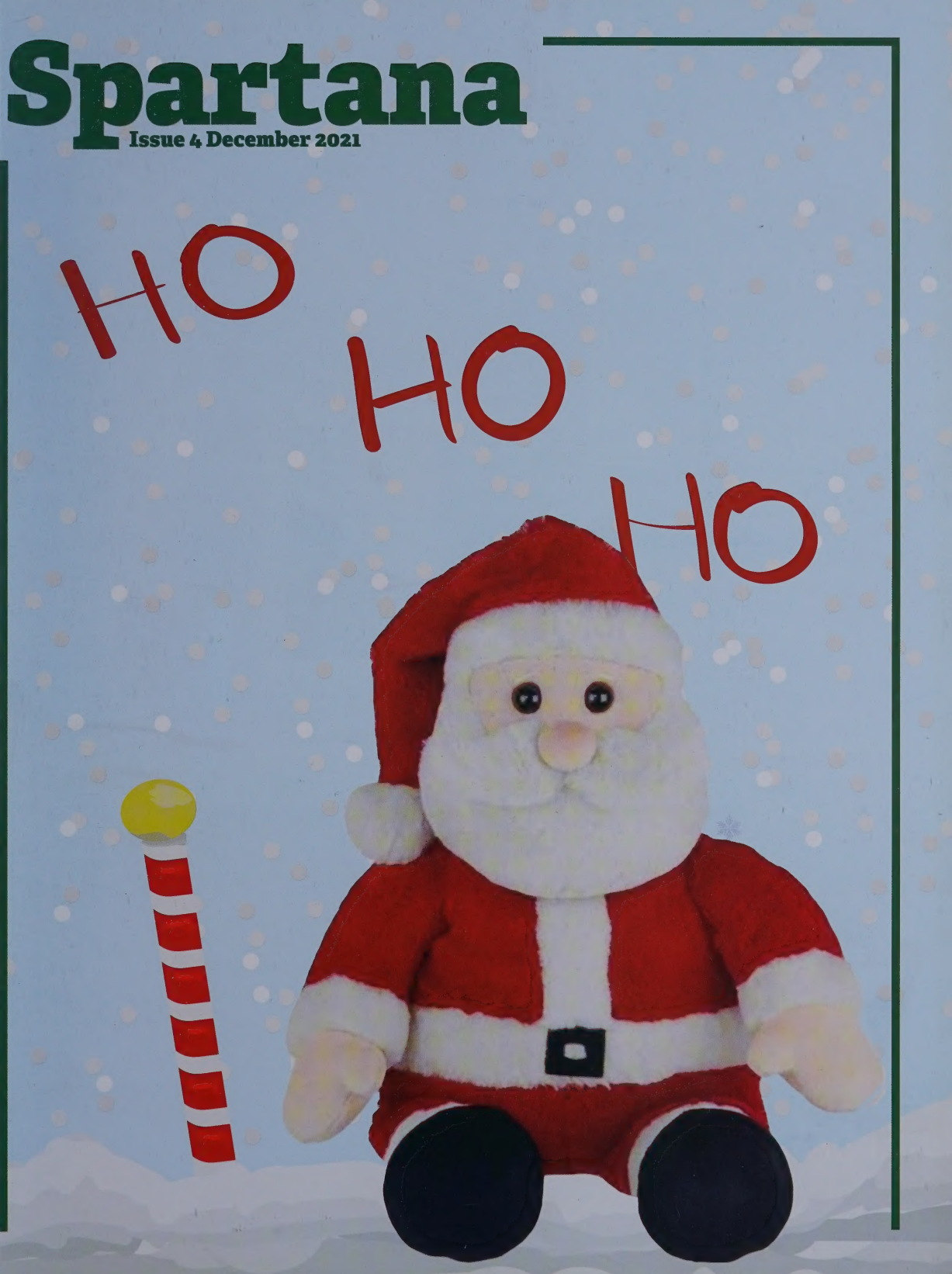
"Our values and our thoughts make us who we are. Freedom of speech allows us to express our opinions without fear."

-Austyn Davis (10)

Check out our past issues on hhsspartana.com

Spartana

Issue 4 December 2021



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cover designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

table of contents designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

Starbuck's Gift Card?

Find the five hidden snowflakes, and email *claire.elliott@students.sacs.k12.in.us* for a $10 reward.

Letter from the Editor

December - a month that can mean anything to anyone. The rich stories of our youth, stories of giving and cheer, satiate many. So much so, that some develop a hunger for the holiday season, and even its mention induces a Pavlovian excitement.

For others, the excessive sweetness of Hallmark movies and seemingly senseless optimism is cloying. It evokes annoyance, if not outright anger.

For us, however, December brings a universal paradox of feeling. The two week break simmers slowly over the heat of time, its fragrant flavors of repose and festivities drifting closer by the minute. Even the idea of break brings a delicious taste, marinating in our minds. However, a harsh fasting must come before the indulgence. Relaxation and activities pause as we enter the foreboding finals week. It incites fear, frustration, and fatigue without mercy.

Yet it makes our break so savory and so sweet. Soon enough, we shall taste it.

Claire Elliott

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Gaia Splendore (11)
Hannah Shaw (11)
Samuel Cole (10)

Correction for Nov. Issue:

The roll recipes were inaccurate. See *hhsspartana.com* for the updated recipes.

Etsy Gifts

Written by KEALYNN TUNKS
Designed by KATE HUTNER

Travel to https://www.etsy.com/ to find these gifts and more!

Many people associate the month of December with gift giving. At first glance, it is all fun and games as you give your loved ones your thoughtful gifts and see them grin from ear to ear. However, we all know that actually getting those gifts can cause an anxiety like no other. Where do you go? How much can you spend? Will it come in time? What if someone else buys them the same gift? The worries flood your brain as you're looking for gifts. But, fear no more! We have a solution. And it just so happens to be called...

Etsy!

Etsy is an online store containing everything from vintage clothing pieces to toys to home furniture, and can put all of your worries to rest. It's a great site to get unique gifts for the ones you love without dealing with the common stresses of gift giving. It ranges for all ages and personalities, meaning you can find a gift for your mom as well as for your infant cousin.

Along with buying the goods from Etsy, you can also create your own shop and sell what you love to create. Selling on Etsy is just as quick and easy as buying from it. Sydney Herbst (12) created her very own shop, "selling hand painted mirrors." She lets us in on some insider information claiming she is "soon to be selling wire rings as well." She started her store "on October 20th of this year," and has been loving it ever since. Herbst remarked, "I wanted an outlet for my art and a way to make money through my art." If you are looking to buy one of these gorgeous mirrors, her store is called "paintsbysyd4."

Another common struggle is not only where to get gifts, it's what gifts to give, but that struggle will come to an end as we have created a list of gift ideas that your family members and friends will enjoy.

Ideas For You

MaclaOrganic-Rattler Toy

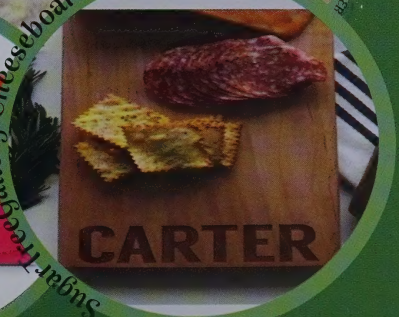
hhKikisCustomCo-Spotify

WhiteRainbowCeramics-Petbowls

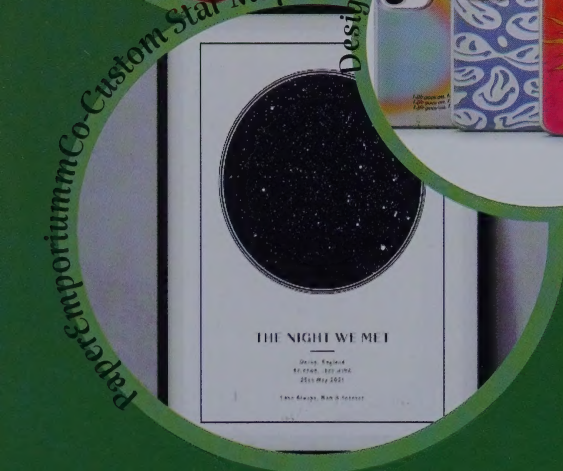
Paintsbysyd4-Handpainted Mirrors

TheWhiteKnightGifts-Tumbler

DesignedbyMerlyn-Phone Cases



SugarTreeGallery-Cheeseboard Personalized



PaperEmporiummCo-Custom Star Map

Photos courtesy of Etsy and Canva

A Starry Night:

NOV.20 2021

Homestead's Semi-formal dance looked a little different from years past as it was not a school-sanctioned event. The planning and organization of the dance was led by senior Abigail Ayres, who decided to create a Semi-formal event with her friends when the student government would not.

"The school was planning on cancelling their Semi-formal dance, so that caused us to start all of this. The school told us that because of COVID-19, they could not have a dance this semester," Ayres said.

Due to a lack of funding from Homestead, Ayres and the Semi-formal committee had to raise their own money for the event.

"The dance was fully funded through ticket sales. Any money that was made from selling the tickets was then used to pay off any and all expenses," explained Ayres.

This year's Semi-formal was held at the Fort Wayne Coliseum, which Ayres chose specifically for the event: "We had it at the Coliseum this year because the venue could fit a maximum of 1,200 people."

Senior Zaeda Knudson also helped with the planning of the dance.

"I loved being able to see the amazing amount of students, nearly 900, come and have fun during the dance," said Knudson. Ayres said that for her, the best part of planning the dance was "getting to see how excited everyone got."

Without the dedication of Ayres, Knudson and the other members of the Semi-formal committee, the dance would not have been possible this year.

Thanks to them, freshmen and sophomores got to experience their first high school dance in a fun and exciting way, and upperclass-men were able to attend their last or second-to-last semi-formal.

Many long-lasting memories were made as students worked together to make this dance possible.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Semi-formal possible!

Semi Formal 2021

written and designed by
ELAINA SCHILT, ALESSIA PASSONI, KAIYA CRONKHITE

BUS DRIVER

GRAPHICS BY MADELINE PHUONG AND COURTESY OF CANVA

SHORTAGE

written and designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

Southwest Allen County is facing a pressing staff shortage.

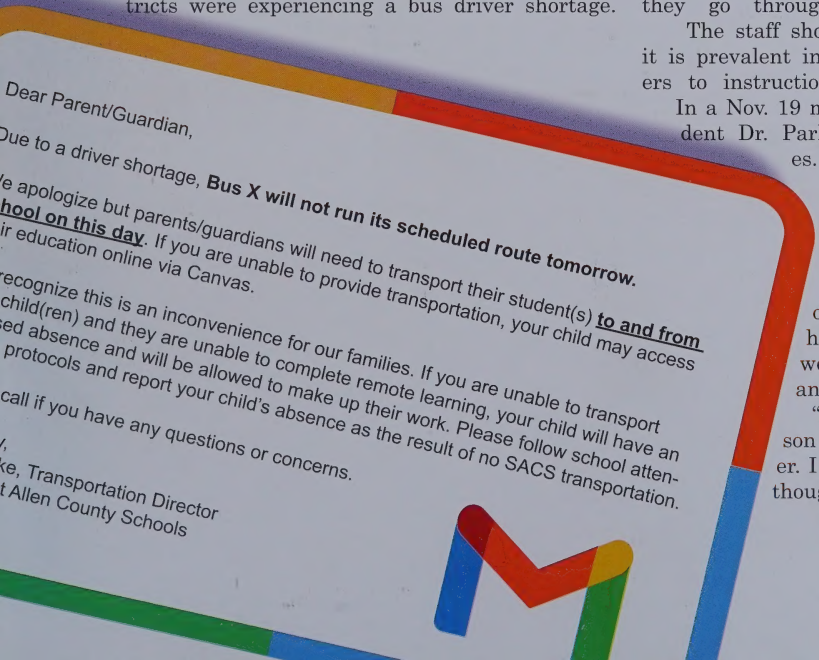
The district's shortage of bus drivers is especially impacting students outside the classroom. With six to eight contracted bus drivers out on long-term medical leave, SACS may be anywhere from six to ten routes behind on a daily basis, depending on if drivers call in sick or take the day off. However, with help from office staff and substitute drivers, the district is able to cut only one or two routes a day.

"We cover four routes with licensed office staff and mechanics, and then we have our regular subs that help us cover," SACS Transportation Director Steve Lake said. "Actually, we're going to be short three routes on Monday, (Nov. 22) which is the most we've ever had."

Considering that SACS bus capacities range from 10 passengers to 84 passengers, the shortage of drivers can leave tens to hundreds of students without transportation every day. For those who cannot find transportation elsewhere, the school grants "an excused absence and (allows students) to make up their work."

"What we try to do is we keep track of which routes we cancel and we try to rotate those routes and spread them out as much as we possibly can," Lake said.

The current pandemic has only worsened what was a pre-existing problem: In November of 2018, a School Bus Fleet survey reported that 91% of districts were experiencing a bus driver shortage.


Dear Parent/Guardian,

Due to a driver shortage, **Bus X will not run its scheduled route tomorrow.**

e apologize but parents/guardians will need to transport their student(s) **to and from hool on this day**. If you are unable to provide transportation, your child may access ir education online via Canvas.

ecognize this is an inconvenience for our families. If you are unable to transport child(ren) and they are unable to complete remote learning, your child will have an ed absence and will be allowed to make up their work. Please follow school atten- protocols and report your child's absence as the result of no SACS transportation.

call if you have any questions or concerns.

,
e, Transportation Director
t Allen County Schools

Clearly, bus shortages are not merely a districtwide issue. Schools across the nation are facing similar staffing shortages. To alleviate these shortages, school districts are offering hiring bonuses, hosting test drive demos of school buses in closed courses, and delaying or cancelling classes.

In Massachusetts, the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District cancelled classes on Wednesday, Nov. 17 due to a bus driver shortage. Closer to home, in Indiana, Anderson Community Schools had an e-learning day on Tuesday, Nov. 23 because of the same issue. Earlier in the school year, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker even deployed the National Guard to help ease the shortage.

Lake put the SACS bus driver shortage in terms of the driver shortage throughout the transportation sector. "You see on the news all the boats that are sitting out off of Long Beach, California. There's several reasons why they're waiting out there, but one of them is there's not enough trucks to move all that product," he said. "When there's a shortage of truck drivers, there's going to be a shortage of bus drivers because they have those commercial drivers licenses."

The process to get a commercial drivers license—proof that the driver has met both district and state requirements—is a lengthy one. SACS offers a paid training program to license and certify bus drivers.

"We're hauling the most precious cargo on the planet, so it's extremely important that they go through all that training," Lake said.

The staff shortage extends beyond transportation; it is prevalent in all positions, from substitute teachers to instructional assistants to cafeteria workers.

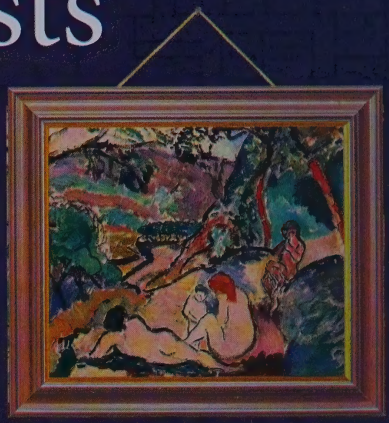
In a Nov. 19 message to SACS families, Superintendent Dr. Park Ginder acknowledged the shortages. He said that "the district's available (substitute teacher) list is only 20% of what it was two years ago," and he urged the SACS community to help relieve the shortage.

Bret Jackson, a Homestead class of '77 graduate, is doing just that. He has been a SACS bus driver for three weeks, driving one permanent route and learning a second in that time.

"It gave me something new to do," Jackson said. "I never thought I'd be a bus driver. I knew they needed help with that so I thought I'd help the school out."

Famous Art Heists

written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE and SAMUEL COLE



We can't start a story without background knowledge. The first ever art heist ever recorded was in 1473. Polish pirates boarded a ship en route to Florence that contained Hans Melming's *Last Judgement,* which depicts the second coming of Christ. The pirates brought it back to Poland, where it remains today in the National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland. Italian officials have been trying to get the piece back ever since.

During the 1994 Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway, the famous painting *The Scream* was stolen. Thieves broke into the National Museum in Oslo, snapped the wire that the painting was hanging from, and left with the piece. The action took place against the backdrop of the opening festivities for the '94 Winter Olympics, which were held in Lillehammer, a city two hours north of Oslo. The Norwegian Government put out a ransom of $1 million to return the painting and after almost two years, the painting was found in a hotel room in a city north of Oslo. In 1996, four men were convicted in connection with the robbery.

In 1911, an Italian handyman named Vincenzo Peruggia and two of his fellow conspirators stole what could be considered the most famous painting of all time. The three of them hid in a closet until the museum closed at night. They then stole the painting and left on a train that was leaving Paris the next morning. Since the painting is, you know, *The Mona Lisa,* it was quite difficult to sell, so he hid it under the floorboards of his Paris apartment. After Peruggia eventually found someone who could purchase the painting, the buyer wanted to "keep it safe," which involved taking the art piece, calling the cops, and then returning it to the Louvre. Peruggia only spent 7 months in prison, and his heist was a reason that the frame of the *Mona Lisa* is now cemented.

One of the most peculiar art heists occurred in the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville in Paris in 2010. A man named Vjeran Tomic stole the paintings, was convicted for 14 total counts of theft and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Tomic confessed later that the robbery was easy because none of the security systems were working. He says that he learned the "art of theft" in Yugoslavia; one of these techniques involved using acid to dismantle a window. Tomic stole 5 paintings, none of which have been recovered.

Graphics by Canva

The most famous art heist to date occurred at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990. Isabella Stewart Gardner, the founder of the museum, was born into a well-off family. Inspired by her trips to Venice and intellectual life, Isabella began collecting manuscripts and artwork that she exhibited in her Venetian-style museum in Boston. This museum later became the location of the biggest art heist in history: $500 million worth of artwork was stolen.

In the early morning of March 18, 1990, two cops arrived at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to investigate a "disturbance." The two night guards let the cops into the building without question. However, things turned bad quickly when the cops held the guards against the walls and stated that this was a robbery. The so-called cops locked and duck-taped the guards in the tunnels underneath the museum.

Thirteen works went missing on the morning of March 18. The robbers weren't expected to be professional; they cut the precious paintings from their frames. The missing paintings included Johannes Vermeer's *The Concert* and *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* by Rembrandt. *The Concert* is thought to be the most expensive missing painting in the world. Degas and Monet paintings were also stolen. Rembrandt's self-portrait was taken off the wall, but was found unharmed when police arrived later that morning.

Even though they lack evidence, the FBI believes that the works were stolen by members of the Boston Mafia during a period of gang wars. One theory is that Bobby Donati stole the paintings to get his Mafia captain out of prison. No members of any gang have confessed to the crime. The museum is currently offering a $10 million reward for the return of the artworks.

FEATURE

Hating Abstract Art

Barnett Newman
Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III, 1967

In 1986, a man walked into the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and took a box cutter to a Barnett Newman piece titled *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III.* The length of the multiple slashes together totalled 50 feet. It seems safe to say that this "art vigilante," and many others supporting him, were indeed afraid of red, yellow and blue.

But what was so horrific about the piece that it deserved to get slashed? Did the art contain graphic images? Perhaps an offensive depiction of a marginalized group? Well no, the artwork depicted, simply, red yellow and blue. The abstract yet simple display of the colors was enough to make it hated to the point of destruction.

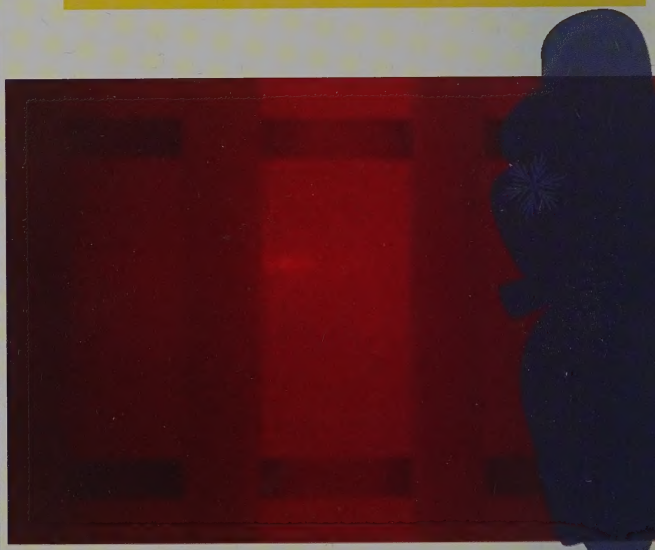
The art world was divided by this piece and the drama that followed. On one side, people defended Newman's artistic expression even if the masses "didn't get it." However, the vandalist had acquired a good amount of support from those who hated the piece to such a degree that they took matters into their own hands.

Sarah Shatto-Jones, an art teacher at Homestead, said, "People responding out of hate just lack education on the subject and it's lazy on the part of the viewer" and that "it isn't the art that's lazy." Depth and meaning in nonobjective art may be hard to find at first, but that does not mean that it is not there.

At first glance, abstract art is often reduced to colors, scribbles and nondescript forms. But its depth and beauty is not found at first glance, it is found when you look deeper.

When asked about the value of meaning in a piece, Kaylee Yates (10) said "Personally I've looked at a lot of art and been confused or reluctant to think there was any meaning, but after speaking with other viewers, I can learn possible deeper meanings to art that makes me more interested in it." Although it may take some patience and open mindedness, seeking to understand the meaning behind these confusing artworks is worth it.

Traditional, realistic art is praised for the fact that it is the opposite of abstract art; traditional art is easy and pretty. The simple beauty of this art makes it easy to be used as a tool, specifically in politics. Countries often praise traditional, picturesque art because of its ability to capture and reflect the state it came from and it's so simple to "get." A beautiful landscape of a beautiful park painted with beautiful colors means that the country must be beautiful, right? Well, not necessarily.



Carole Splendore
Untitled, 2002

A Tale of Facism and Boxcutters

written and designed by
GAIA SPLENDORE

In Nazi Germany, facists despised abstract, noncomforming art to such a degree that they created a museum titled the Degenerate Art Exhibitition just to shame this type of art. The subject matter of these paintings often brought attention to the seedy underbelly of Germany that most spend a lot of effort hiding, like gruesome war scenes, prostitution and disease. Although they were not as direct as realistic portraits, the emotions these piecescreated was undeniable.

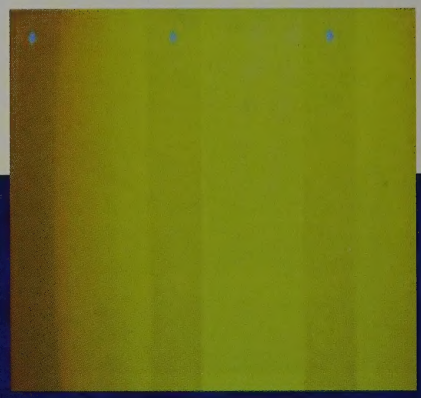
Naturally, these raw, unconforming pieces of art were shut down. Facist states recognized the power and emotion that these pieces bred and how unafraid they were to criticize powers above them.

Carole Splendore
Untitled, 2002

Felix Gonzalez-Torres
Untitled (Portrait of Ross in LA), 1991

Abstract art's aim is not to uphold society's values, or to depict the source's immense skill and superiority. Abstract art drives to create feeling. Take *Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A)* by Felix González-Torres, a piece created in honor of the artist's lover, Ross Laycock who passed away from AIDS. The remembrance piece is not a realistic portrait of the man's lover, but rather a pile of candy.

Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A) has been exhibited in a plethora of different museums and features a pile of individually wrapped candies in multicolored cellophane. The weight of the pile is 175 pounds, Laycock's ideal weight when healthy. Visitors can note how the candies could represent the sweet feelings and love that González-Torres has for his partner. Patrons are encouraged to take pieces of candy and it is up to the owner whether or not to replenish the stock. This could represent either the permanence or fleeting nature of life, completely depending on how the viewer interacts with the art.



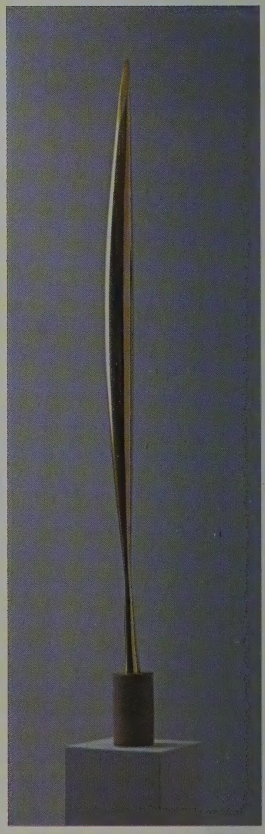
Carole Splendore
Untitled, 1999

Clyfford Still
1953, 1953

Raegan Rhodehamel (12) mentioned the value of viewing art, stating that, "The most fun part about abstract art is figuring out what connection you can make that will make it more relevant and meaningful to you, everyone can have different interpretations and that is so cool."

Modern art invites the audience to feel and sink into the work of the art.People interact with the piece, feel the emotions behind the piece, and even taste the sweetness of the intimate relationship.

Depth may not be apparent immediately with modern art, but that does not mean it is not there. After its destruction, restoration attempts for *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III* was not only challenging, but impossible. The best restoration artists were brought in to fix this painting and return it to its former glory, but the secrets the painting held about its creation were not divulged to anyone. After many tries to slap down red, yellow and blue on a canvas just as Newman did, artists realized how impossible it was to recreate the profoundness of the piece. What was once criticized for being too simple, proved itself to be more complex than anyone could really imagine.



Constantin Brancusi
Bird in Space, 1928

Top 10 Christmas Songs

written and designed by
LUKE LAND

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. Pretty lights, amazing decorations, being around family and friends, and of course the music. Christmas music is quite a popular genre of music. I reviewed the 10 best and most classic Christmas songs of all time.

10 Happy Holidays / The Holiday Season by Andy Williams: Joyful vibes is how I would describe this song. A classic that h great vocals and great lyrics. It flows so well together. Great song overall.

9 12 Days Of Christmas by Bing Crosby and The Andrew Sisters: The most variety within one song in the Christmas genre. You could replace anything they give out on each day with anything, which makes this song a classic. The overlapping vocals of Crosby and the Andrew Sisters just work so well together. It just completes the song.

8 Deck the Halls by Nat King Cole: Probably the most catchy song on this list. The sound of this song is just addicting. T song starts to speed up as it moves, which is such a nice touch. It is one of the most iconic sayings with Christmas, whic helps with making this a classic song.

7 You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch by Thurl Ravenscroft: An iconic song in an iconic Christmas movie, it is the most pop ular song in The Grinch, and for good reason. All little kids know this song from the movie, but it also just became a class over the years. It could have possibly been higher, but I personally don't like the movie that much, so it's all the way up here.

6 Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer by Gene Authy: Just like #8, this one is an iconic song in an iconic Christmas movie. Everyone knows this song, or at least the first verse, by heart. When a song in a movie is made into a classic, you know y did something right, and that's the case here. A great story for little kids to enjoy in a song, and a very catchy song at tha

5 Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane) by Elvis Presley: One of the greatest music artists of all tim doing what he does best: making classic songs. This is such a classic. It's the epitome of Christmas, just not as well done a the others higher on this placement list. The song is such a beautiful song, and of course Elvis's low voice mixes great wit his higher voice. Just a great song overall.

4 Jingle Bell Rock by Bobby Helms: I cannot put my finger on it, but this song just screamed to be put at #4. The beat on this song gives the most cheerful vibes out of all of the songs on this list. The vocals by Bobby Helms are just so satisfying listen to. An amazing song that deserves its placement.

3 It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas by Michael Bublé: It is mind-boggling how he managed to remake this cla sic Christmas song, make it sound so similar yet so much better than the classic one. He slowed the pace down to make it more calming and the vocals are just amazing. A top Christmas artist of all time and this song proves it with flying colors

2 Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree by Brenda Lee: The epitome of a Christmas song. It's what I consider to be the best "old school" Christmas song out there. The hook is amazing. It gives me vivid memories of Christmas mornings at m grandparents house with my family opening presents and having fun talks with my family.

1 All I Want For Christmas Is You by Mariah Carey: Iconic is all I have to say. Always ends up dominating the charts during the Holiday season. It is the best song to show love and holiday spirit in one song and we cannot forget about the vocals. One of the catchiest hooks ever. Best Christmas song and it's not even a close race.

FEATURE

Horrific THE HOLIDAY HOMESTEAD

a CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE story

AND SO IT BEGINS

It was the day before Winter Break and everyone else was already on their way home after a grueling week of finals… everyone except you. Unfortunately, you had missed the PSAT due to a national, week-long competition and had to make it up during the second half of the day while all your friends were at a group lunch. You head to the community room, where a woman is waiting.

"Hello, I'm Mrs. Jolly. I'll be proctoring your PSAT today. I've turned off the announcements in here so we won't be interrupted."

"Okay!" you respond, eager to get started so you can finally leave. You sit down and begin to fill out the name sheet as Mrs. Jolly reads through the instructions. After you start the first section, she slips out to use the restroom. Oddly enough, when you finish the section a half-hour later, she still hasn't returned. Just as you get up to look for her, the lights spark, flicker, and then fizzle out. You dash into the hallway to find it empty, so you head for the doors to drive home. That's when you see the 7 feet of snow blocking the glass doors. You're snowed in with no power, no supplies, and no companions. You decide to…

Go to the cafeteria for food (go to the cafeteria box)
Go to the auditorium for costumes to keep warm (go to the auditorium box)

THE CAFETERIA

You walk down the hallway towards the cafeteria. Luckily, the doors are unlocked, so you run towards the kitchen for some food. You enter the storage pantry, looking for chips, cookies, and any nonperishables to get you through the storm. Unfortunately, you only find vats and vats of nacho cheese. As you turn to check another pantry, you accidentally bump one of the giant vats of nacho cheese over. It collides into the other vats, and all of a sudden you're swept up in a wave of rubbery, thick (and probably expired) nacho cheese. You try to swim, to rise above the disgusting school condiment, but it's futile. You feel the nacho cheese fill your lungs, coating your throat and flooding your nose. You try to gasp for air, but only choke on more cheese. As your vision goes black from the lack of oxygen, you realize this is it—you're suffocating. What an embarrassing way to die, you think as the world fades black for the final time.

YOU HAVE PERISHED. TRY AGAIN!

THE AUDITORIUM

You cut back through the community room to reach the auditorium as quickly as possible. Shivering, you open the door to the backstage closet of the auditorium and look around for costumes. Unfortunately, there's nothing there. Then you remember that the winter musical cast was supposed to rehearse after school today. The costumes are probably in the wings of the stage. You head out onto the stage and are surprised to find two costumes sitting right in the center, (almost as if they were waiting for you)—a reindeer and an elf. You…

Put on the elf costume (go to elf box)
Put on the reindeer costume (go to reindeer box)

THE ELF

You slip on the elf costume—yes, even, the pointy ears. There's no one around to see you, and besides, you're going to freeze to death if you don't get something warm on. All of a sudden, your arm feels tingly, like when it falls asleep. Suddenly, the tingling stops and your arm shrinks with a loud POP! Your other arm begins to tingle and it shrinks with a large POP! as well. Next, it's your legs, and finally your head follows. Panicking at your new, one-and-a-half foot tall self, you frantically run around the stage in circles. Then you realize you need to do something to get your bearings. You decide to…

Put on the reindeer costume—surely that'll fix this, right? (go to reindeer box)
Climb onto the giant yeti set piece and look around for a solution (go to giant yeti box)

HAUNTING OF HIGH SCHOOL

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL and
KATELYN STYBORSKI

THE REINDEER

You decide to put on the reindeer costume, relishing in its soft, fluffy fur. All of a sudden, you feel your arms and legs elongating, just as two magnificent antlers burst from your skull with a sickening crunch. Glancing at your reflection in the stomach of the giant yeti, your worst fears are confirmed—you've become a reindeer. Your heart sinking, you begin to shiver again. Considering you're a reindeer, you decide to prance around the stage. Unfortunately, you quickly lose control of your new body and crash into the numerous holiday-themed set pieces surrounding you. Shocked still, you watch them teeter back and forth before they collapse on top of you. You're trapped! Realizing that you must escape before you're crushed, you...

Screech loudly... maybe someone will hear you and come help (go to screech box)
Try to wriggle out... you're all alone, so there's no use in calling for help, right? (go to wriggle box)

GIANT YETI

You slowly clamber up the giant yeti set piece, carefully slipping your hands and feet into the tiny chips in the wood. You assure yourself, it's just like rock-climbing—but you've never climbed under these conditions before. Despite your costume, your fingers are freezing. Being small does you no favors in the warmth department. Ignoring the pain of your now numb appendages, you continue to climb. Finally, you make it to the top of the yeti. You jump for joy (which is really out of character for you. This elf costume must be getting to your head.) Unfortunately, your tiny jump is just enough to offset the balance of the yeti. With a heart-stopping CreeEaK~! the set piece hurtles to the floor. You hit the ground with an admittedly satisfying splat—like a stress ball filled with yogurt knocking out an old politician's dentures—and immediately die. I mean, really? You chose to climb the yeti. What'd you think would happen?
YOU HAVE MADE AN OBJECTIVELY STUPID DECISION. TRY AGAIN!

SCREECH

Hoping beyond hope that there's someone left in the building, you begin to screech for help, flinching at the sound of your new, animalistic voice. Suddenly, you see the eyes of the fake snowmen across the stage blink at you. Terrified, your reindeer voice cracks and you wonder if reindeer puberty exists. Honestly, what was that? Emerging from your very important thoughts, you see a snowman standing over you—with such a judgmental look on its face, it'd offend Barney the purple dinosaur.
"Good lord, child, could you stop that?" the snowman asked in a perfect British-accented voice with enough ridicule to rival Dr. Price. You are understandably rattled by the talking snowman, who pulls you out of the wreckage. You feel your bones begin to mend. In your horror you....
Scream and try to squirm away (go to Scream box)
Stay level-headed and see what happens (Go to Snowball Fight box)

SCREAM

Your scream of terror sends a shockwave through the auditorium. You back away from the living snowmen until you're pressed up against something warm and fuzzy. Warm and fuzzy? You turn around and realize that you're chest to chest with the giant yeti set piece who has also come to life! You scream even louder. It plucks you off the stage with its giant hands and chomps on your bones. The last sound you hear is the sickening crunch of your head separating from your body.
YOU HAVE MET AN UNFORTUNATE END. TRY AGAIN!

WRIGGLE

Ignoring the crushing weight of your claustrophobia, you struggle to slip out from under the giant yeti set piece. You pull and twist and strain until eventually, with the added lubrication of your slobber, you're able to escape death. Unfortunately, your back legs and one of your antlers are broken in the process. After dragging yourself away from the yeti, you pass out from pain. When you wake up, you're bleary-eyed and foggy-headed. White shapes move at the corners of your vision. You try to move and find that both of your legs have been magically healed! Soon you get your bearings, and realize that those white shapes were sentient snowmen! And they're heading straight for you!

Scream and try to squirm away (go to Scream box)

Stay level-headed and see what happens (Go to Snowball Fight box)

SNOWBALL FIGHT

"What's going on?" you try to say to the snowman. Seeming to understand your reindeer-speak, the snowman nods his head.

"We have helped you," the snowman says, "but only in return for one of your magnificent antlers." He holds out his stick arm expectantly.

Confused, but grateful, you allow him to take your antler. You sit on the snowy ground, feeling the stump of where your antler once was. In the middle of your moping, some tiny snowmen begin pulling at your hooves.

"Have a snowball fight with us!" They chime, their wide coal smiles beaming up at you.

Soon you're pummeling baby snowmen with snowballs. Did you think through the ethics of this?

Right as you're about to whack a child in the face with an icy sphere of pain, a nutcracker jumps into the fray and shields a snowbaby from its fate. You find yourself feeling guilty, (as you should, you monster.) The nutcracker tells you that he won't report you to the chief snowman if you allow him and his other friends to join the fight. Do you accept?

Accept the nutcracker's request (go to Vial box)

Deny the nutcrackers (go to Crunch box)

CRUNCH

Worried that they might hurt the snowmen, you deny the nutcracker's request. The nutcrackers are furious and one lifts you up, placing your recently healed leg in its mouth. You get crunched up by the nutcrackers' horrifying flat jaws. You thought it would hurt less than razor sharp teeth. You were wrong. Your anguished bleats echo across the abandoned auditorium for the next three hours.

YOU HAVE BEEN DEVOURED - LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED A LESSON IN HOSPITALITY.

VIAL

You allow the nutcrackers to join in your snowball fight. You team up with the baby snowmen and ambush the nutcrackers, raining down snowballs onto their fort. They respond by walloping you with walnuts ensconced in snow. One hits you square on the forehead. Your skin splits open and you begin to bleed onto the snow - the field of white surrounding you is slowly stained red. The little snowmen rush over and heal you. Meanwhile, a nutcracker takes your blood-soaked snow in a vial and disappears backstage. You start to become curious about what the sentient creatures are doing with your bodily samples.

Follow the nutcrackers backstage (Go to Curtain box)

Screw that, you're not dying (again.) Stay where you are. (Go to Snow Grow box)

SNOW GROW

You begin to grow bored of the snowball fight, especially since every time someone hits a snowman it just gets bigger... and stronger. As the nutcrackers hit the snowbabies, they become larger and larger until you become trapped inside of their snowy bodies. It's freezing!

Give up. You're done with this craziness (go to Coward box)

Burrow your way free (go to Curtains box)

COWARD

Your hooves and ears grow numb after a few minutes. Icicles hang from your nose, and your lips turn purple. Slowly, agonizingly, you contract frostbite. Your limbs become black and dead. Your breathing slows as you take shorter and shallower breaths. Eventually, after hours of suffering, your blood turns to ice and you meet your end.

PATHETIC. JUST GO READ ANOTHER STORY.

CURTAIN

Two nutcrackers guard the curtain to the backstage, blocking your way. Trying to think of a way to distract them, you try your best Santa impression, they refuse to let you pass. Do you..?

Use your one good antler to headbutt them in the nuts-cracker (go to Crunch box)

Hum the nutcracker melody from the ballet The Nutcracker to put them into a trance (Go to Rafters box)

RAFTERS

The humming works! (somehow). The nutcrackers think you are Clara and assemblé you into the rafters so you can sneak behind the curtain. You hold fast to the rafters, squinting into the blackness around you. It's too dark to see anything happening backstage.

Hum Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to maybe somehow magically make your nose glow (go to Cult box)

Blindly jump down and hope something good comes out of it (go to Irony box)

IRONY

You jump into the darkness, hoping that you'll land on something to break your fall. Unfortunately, there's absolutely nothing except the cold, hard wooden surface of the stage. You break all four legs on impact and are impaled on your own antler... oh the irony.

YOU HAVE BEEN IMPALED. CARE TO HAVE ANOTHER GO?

CULT

The song shockingly works and the room lights up to reveal a horrifying cult circle drawn on the floor with your reindeer blood. Your antler sits in the middle of the circle, glowing an evil shade of green. Snowmen and nutcrackers chant around the circle. Their heads snap up to reveal dark soulless eyes. The abyss calls to you.

Give into the nothing and join the snowmen and nutcrackers in the circle. (go to Chant box)

Gallop away as fast as you can - Mamma didn't raise no scientology sympathizer. (go to Trance box)

TRANCE

Your hooves are stuck to the floor. You're paralyzed! The voices of the snowmen and nutcrackers draw you in. You have no choice but to go along with it.

(go to Chant box)

CHANT

The sentient creatures make room for you in the circle. You touch your hooves to their branch and block arms and chant with them - somehow you know all the words. As your voices ebb and flow with the chant, you start to hear whispers in the back of your head. Your chants grow louder, echoing around the stage. Your head begins to feel fuzzy - How long have you been standing here? The blood on the stage is boiling somehow, your broken antler vibrates on the ground, the glow becoming stronger with the heat.

You have to get out of here! See if you can call the antler to you somehow - it was once yours, wasn't it? (go to Antler box)

You've got to admit, this is pretty cool. You feel powerful, like some kind of transformation is happening. (go to Transformation box)

ANTLER

You try to call the antler to you, but to no avail. The antler stays put. You try harder - you've come this far; you're not giving up now. The antler spins around on the ground, trying to fight you. Finally, you overpower it and the antler shoots towards you, whizzing around with a green flare of magic. You duck as it zooms straight at your head. Narrowly missing you, the antler then swings around like a boomerang, impaling all of the snowmen and nutcrackers still sitting around the circle. It lands on the ground at your feet.

YOU HAVE UNLOCKED ENCHANTING ENDING (AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY ON WWW.HHSSPARTANA.COM)

TRANSFORMATION

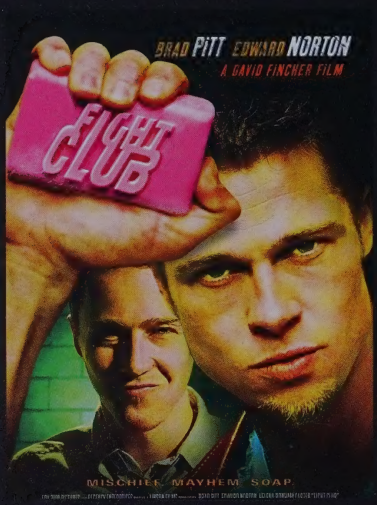
Then you realize a transformation is happening. Your limbs are tingling. As the blood on the ground boils more and more violently, your body grows colder and colder. Soon, your lips are so numb, you can barely chant. Fatigue takes hold of your body. You can bear the cold no longer. You curl up into a ball on the floor. Your blood turns to ice.

YOU HAVE UNLOCKED EVERLASTING ENDING (AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY ON WWW.HHSSPARTANA.COM)

MAINSTREAM MOVIES

written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW & GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

GUIDE TO FILM BRO MOVIES

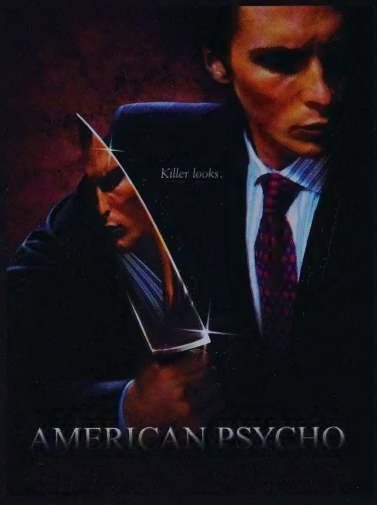


★★★★½

A man who suffers from an unnamed mental illness (feel free to psychoanalyze) goes to support groups to ease his insomnia. Eventually, he meets an estranged soap salesman named Tyler Durden, and his life takes a drastic turn. His life splinters even more when Marla, fellow support group impostor, inadvertently distances the partnership.

I have to say, I did not expect to enjoy this movie at all. Due to the horrific culture that surrounds *Fight Club* that definitely did not interpret the message of the movie correctly in the slightest, I had a less than good view of it. In addition, the run time is particularly intimidating, as is any movie that lasts longer than two hours. For all the things that were working against this movie, it managed to subvert my expectations entirely. It was fast-paced, entertaining throughout, and proved worth every two hours and nineteen minutes.

Recommended for: those who choose flight over fight, the pretentious, and the short attention span havers.

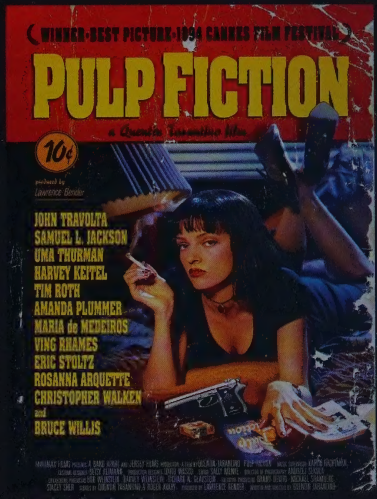


★★★½

Patrick Bateman, one Vice President of many for a company on Wall Street, has one thing that really sets him apart: his homicidal tendencies. Periled by the many struggles of upper class living and economic success, he just cannot seem to connect with people. His frustration manifests itself in a variety of more violent outlets all while teaching us the less appealing side effects of toxic masculinity.

My biggest concern with *American Psycho* is the number of times I have heard the phrase "you probably didn't get it" in response to virtually any and every critique of the movie. In reality, it is not that hard to understand. That being said, I have some critiques of my own. The movie is beyond graphic almost to the point of meaningless violence. I think the reason so many men find it hard to understand why women are not huge fans of the movie is because they are not watching a woman assault and murder tens of hundreds of men. However, it was significantly better than I was expecting.

Recommended for: anyone with a superiority complex, people whose dinner of choice is steak and potatoes.



★★★★★

Jules Winnfield and Vincent Vega are a pair of hitmen working for another man named Marsellus Wallace. Our story begins with a hunt for a mysterious briefcase but splinters off into following the stories of Mia Wallace, Butch Coolidge, Pumpkin and Honey Bunny, and a few other characters, all of which intertwine into the mosaic that is *Pulp Fiction*.

If you ask me, the movie lives up to its reputation. Undoubtedly the most impressive part of this movie (aside from the soundtrack) was the relationships between all the characters. Some of that is certainly thanks to the highly convincing big name actors like Samuel L. Jackson, John Travolta and Uma Thurman. Most shocking to me was the amount of one-liners I recognized despite never having seen the movie before. If you're a big fan of Quentin Tarintino movies you'll surely notice the references to some of his other films like *Kill Bill* and *Reservoir Dogs*. It is worth the almost three hours it takes to watch.

Recommended for: Italian mafia bosses, people desperate to understand pop culture references.

Images courtesy of IMDb

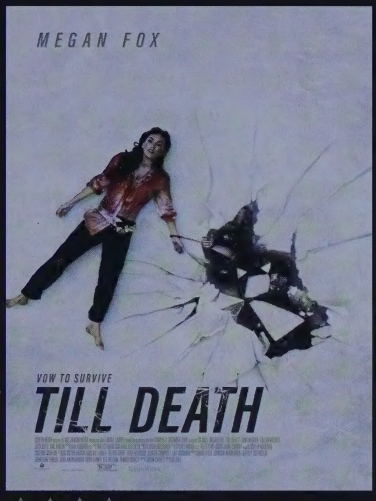
GUIDE TO THE FEMALE EQUIVALENT OF FILM BRO MOVIES

★★★

Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson is a senior in high school who leaves her public school to go to a private Catholic school. Known for the school's wealthy elite, Lady Bird is certainly not that. She struggles to juggle college applications, her overbearing (but caring) mother, and new love.

If the phrase "I'm not like other girls" were to materialize, it would take the form of *Lady Bird*. In the name of honesty, I will say the only reason I ever watched this movie in the first place was for Saoirse Ronan and Timothée Chalamet. I understand the appeal, and I see how so many teenage girls can relate to this. My only complaint is the same general complaint I have about all coming-of-age movies: this does not resonate with me. The acting is great, and the movie is entertaining. If someone invited me to watch it a second time, I would not say no, but it would not be my first choice.

Recommended for: frequent hair dyers, cat people (in both ways), anyone who romanticizes dorm life Pinterest boards.



★★★★

The year was 2009: think tracksuits, low-rise jeans, multicolored tights, and a United States economy grappling with the repercussions of the '08 housing crisis. Hardly a simpler time, *Jennifer's Body* was conceived out of wedlock and entered a massively unreceptive public audience. It was considered a flop by commercial means, but it soon catapulted in popularity as a cult classic. Jennifer, a hot high schooler, undergoes a deadly transformation and requires the flesh of her male classmates for sustenance. Her best friend, Needy, finds out and pledges to put an end to Jennifer's misdeeds.

I can definitely see how a movie such as this can be misconstrued as a dreadful mischaracterization of teenagers with its strange and sometimes painful dialogue. But if one navigates the treacherous minefields that is eccentric teen dialogue, *Jennifer's Body* proves to be a well-made horror and comedy movie.

Recommended for: the ones who analyze novels in English through the gender lens, horror film enjoyers but not enthusiasts

★★★★

Amy Dunne, the inspiration for her parent's Amazing Amy children's book series, disappears on her fifth wedding anniversary. The prime suspect is her husband, Nick Dunne, whose apathetic appearance to the press and to the people around him is unconvincing of a grieving husband. As the media and the police begin to investigate, the pressure is on, and Nick and Amy's image as a happy couple begins to fade.

Gone Girl is an incredible psychological thriller. I thought the movie was a little boring in the beginning at times, but when it hits its stride, it hits hard. Providing solid commentary on marriage and appearance, the movie gives what is not necessarily a realistic portrayal of marriage but certainly a harrowing one.

Recommended for: the rom-com lover, those who enjoy soliloquies in Shakespeare tragedies, and the dramatist in your life.

A FEW WORDS ON SNOW

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

As snow falls, it whispers. It is a tentative and coquettish whisper that hides in winter's silence. Only after a long period of staring does its voice come through. The eyes settle into the descent of silver specks, welcoming the scene rather than staring at it; they must absorb the wintry landscape as a whole and in its parts. The wooded background provides a noble seat for the blank, grey sky, and the sky gifts the trees delicate jewels in return. All the while, the blankets of snow furnish nature's harmony and document each traveller's passing.

The eyes return to the snowflakes, falling. Falling certainly and uncertainly, susceptible to the whims of wind and to the homeward pull of earth. Each pale fairy moves independently yet with synchrony; all sleepily descend to the bed of snow beneath them in wavering paths. It is mesmerizing to see. It is comforting to hear. They tell a tale of unity and individuality bridged by beauty. Somewhere in its shimmers lies the past. It also holds a glimmer of the future.

"I love how it looks when the snow falls slowly, I love how it looks when the trees are covered, and I love how an unbroken blanket of snow looks in people's yards. It reminds me of the snow scenes in Bambi that I've always liked," Nathan Houser (12) said.

All of this nostalgic wonder is felt from the pleasures of familiarity. The relaxed mood and hazy warmth of home welcomes the delights of winter as a magical addition to a humdrum world. In reality, snow has more beauty than those playful adornments of a comfortable mind. For, snow is austere reality in itself.

It is a bitter cold that nips the cheeks and nose. It is a blinding white that shocks the senses. We immediately become aware of ourselves in the world and, in turn, of ourselves in our own world. Thus, the frigid air evokes the same awe, confusion, and self-pity as a newborn's first breath upon leaving the loving womb. It is truly laughable, our reaction to the cold. We hold a feeble anger against the world because we must weather our climate, as if no other creature has done so before.

"When it first falls, if it's Christmas or early in the year, I'd be okay with it. When it is March, it's like, 'What is this?'" Laurel Morton (12) said.

The snow reminds us of our mortal, human roots. Sensations of cold, disagreeable as they are, force us to contend with the harsh, and sometimes bleak, present. However, we so often misinterpret such truths as wicked and empty silence—as nature detached and nonchalant, letting the brutalities of life go on without opposition. The harsh present, though, is intimacy in itself. The relationships we see in the future and the past are embellished if not inventive. It is merely a relationship between ourselves and our mind. The present, however, ties everyone; no one can escape it. It is something we must all share.

There was a man, once, who escaped the cold in the snug, warm coffee shop where I also took shelter. He was wearing a black hat, leather gloves, and a Carhart jacket yet still scrunched his shoulders up his neck, wrinkled his nose, and shivered. He paused here, in this position of discomfort, while acclimating to the warmth. Then, he walked up to the counter, happy with the change of temperature, and ordered some hot beverage. I had done the same. I smiled when I saw him, because I understood.

"I don't like that it's cold. I don't think anyone likes being cold. But, I do think it is fun. You can do a lot of things with it that you cannot do with anything else. I also like that you kind of get an excuse to be more cozy inside of your house, because I like hot chocolate and blankets. Also, Christmas," Shiksha Goyal (11) said.

The snow also links us to the natural world. Each snowflake is a frosty kiss from above, from which we slightly withdraw, just as adolescents recoil from their mothers.

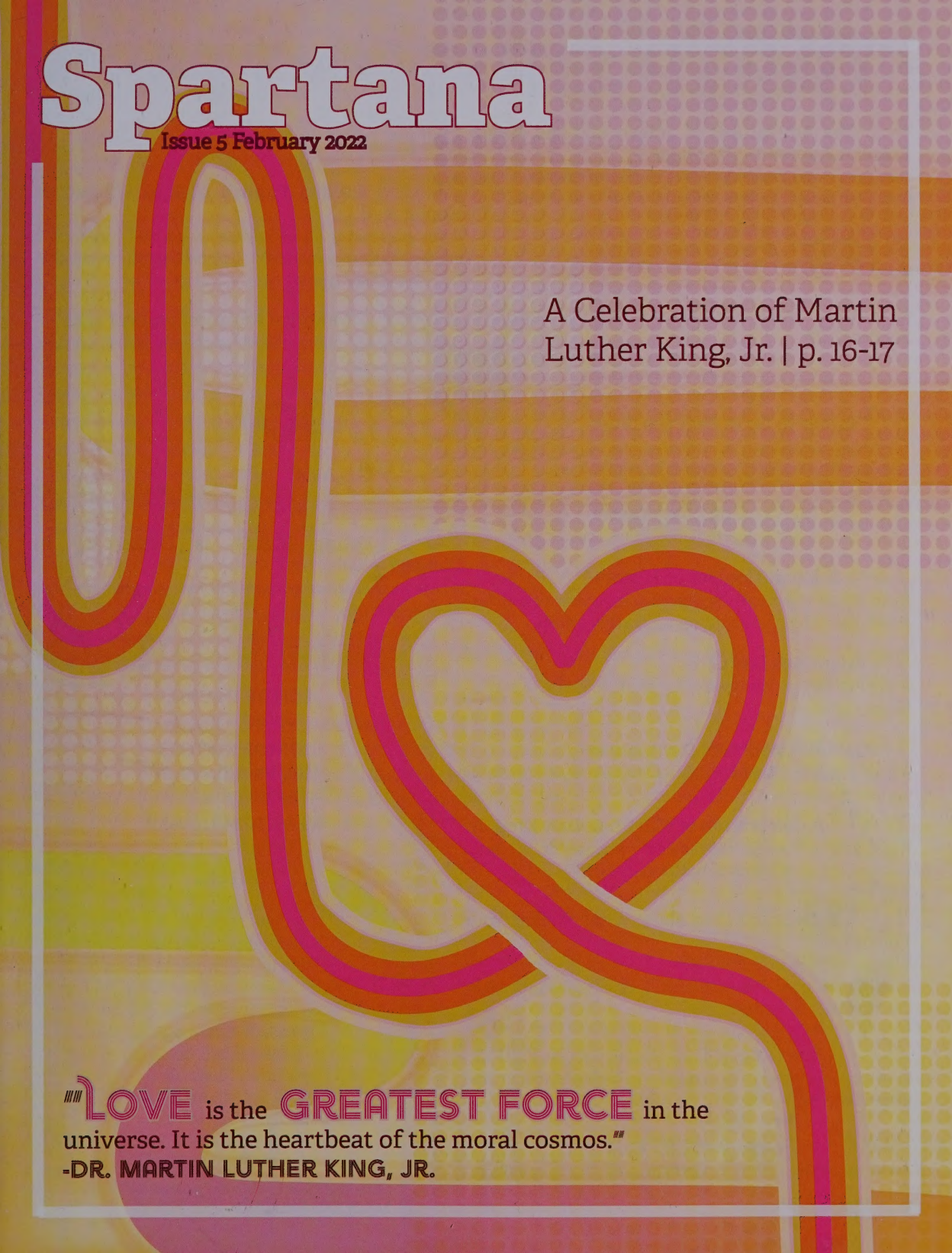
The snow speaks to us in many ways. It provides an environment for the imagination to flourish. It reveals a truth which we must bear. It has fallen on many, and will fall on more.

Check out our past issue
hhsspartana.com

Spartana

Issue 5 February 2022

A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. | p. 16-17



"LOVE is the GREATEST FORCE in the universe. It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos."
-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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cover and table of contents designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

It always surprises me that February has two "r"s. Nevertheless, if I saw the word "Febuary," I would instantly become angry. Conversely, if I heard someone harshly pronounce both "r"s, I might punch them in the face.

Our calendar's second month derived its name from the Roman festival Februa. During this celebration, as well its corresponding month, the Romans participated in spring purification rituals.

Spring comes much later at this latitude. In February, the thought of the flowering season is one of anticipation rather than reflection. Honestly, the most prominent moment that the month brings is but mild relief: at least January is over.

Nevertheless, February offers us virtually the same gift as any of its eleven sisters. February gives us time. Sometimes, it even gives us an extra day, as a treat.

We could spend this time waiting for the bitter frost to melt away in late March. Or, we could have fun with it. There are plenty of fruitful experiences out there in our chilly mornings.

We can read a good book, or even try to write our own good book. We can watch a nature documentary, or simply meditate on nature. We can celebrate Black History Month, and try to learn more aspects about our world that we did not know. Just as February's name and pronunciation are interesting, we can make its contents interesting, too.

Perhaps this is just me trying to motivate myself. In fact, it definitely is. Still, if it motivates any of you, at least I can say I started my February well.

Claire Elliott

The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser

written and illustrated by
KATELYN STYBORSKI
designed by Thomas Hill

To my dear brothers:

Chapter Six: The Magic

The giant lizards smacked their jaws at the child and eraser, moving closer and closer.

"Uh oh..." Smiley and Jolean groaned.

Face to face with the alligator, Jolean could smell his horrid breath - like rotten fish and soggy flesh. She gagged, covering her mouth with her hands. She felt Smiley press up against her back, trying to distance himself from the huge, sharp teeth-teeth that could easily puncture the rubber of a pink eraser - even a magic one.

They were surrounded.

Taking a deep breath, Jolean fiercely grabbed Smiley, holding him close to her chest, and dove under the water. The current propelled her out of the whirlpool, and they shot through the water like a torpedo, away from the alligator's claws.

Naturally, the creatures gave chase.

Bubbles of air swarmed out of Jolean's nose as she swam. She kicked frantically, scooping her free hand through the water as fast as she could. The deep blue of the stream hurt her eyes, the crushing pressure of the water throbbed in her ears, and her lungs burned with the effort of holding her breath. She held Smiley as tightly as she could. Anguished, Jolean turned to look behind her, only to realize that the alligators had stopped-they were floating stiffly at the surface, their nostrils held above the water.

Breaking through the surface of the water, Jolean gasped for air. She held onto the muddy walls of the ditch as best she could, but the dirt crumbled beneath her fingers.

"Oh, Smiley, we're doomed!" Jolean wailed, mashing her cheek into his. "I can't keep swimming, I just can't! And the walls are too unstable for me to climb."

"Don't give up now," Smiley reassured her. "You just need to swim a little farther, trust me."

Jolean stared at him with both confusion and disgust. "Swim a little farther? There are alligators chasing us! Giant ones! And who knows how long it'll take for them to start swimming again? They'll catch us for sure!"

A tear slipped down her cheek, dripping into the water. It sent a ripple across the surface, lapping gently over Smiley.

"Jolean."

She looked down at him.

"There's a trapdoor just around the bend. If we can get to it, we can escape the alligators."

Jolean wiped her tears with her elbow. "A trapdoor?"

"Yes. And you can get us there!"

"No, I can't," she sniffled.

"Jolean," Smiley said again. He stared at her earnestly, "Do you trust me?"

"I don't know, Smiley. I only met you yesterday."

"Does time pass so slowly for you?"

Jolean frowned. "Of course it does," she scolded. "Time passes the same everywhere. And one day isn't very long to have known a person. Besides, how would you know about the trapdoor anyway? You've never even seen this river!"

Smiley grimaced. "Jolean, I-Look out!"

Jolean turned her head sharply, only to see the sleek bodies of the alligators crashing towards them. She dove under at the last second - one of the creatures collided with the wall, sending a layer of dirt cascading into the water. The two friends sped away from the alligators, concealed by the cloud of dust.

Kicking wildly, with Smiley safely secured in a tangle of her hair, Jolean sped away from the bank. Concentrating, she squinted through the stinging water. Her lungs ached, begging for release, but she ignored it. There was no way she'd let them catch her. Not yet. However, she knew she'd eventually have to rise for air.

Gritting her teeth, Jolean continued through the water. Just around the bend, she encouraged herself. Just around the bend! Her chest screamed, her arms and legs burned from the effort of swimming, but she could not give up! She felt a tug on her hair. Smiley was pulling her towards the surface.

The two emerged in a fit of coughing. Hidden behind a large rock, Jolean wailed helplessly, "I can't hold my breath any longer!" She massaged her throat, gulping in air.

Despite himself, Smiley laughed, "Jolean! Your face is purple!"

"Smiley-!" Her enraged shout was cut short with a blast of yellow light.

Jolean covered her eyes. She wiped her wet hair from her forehead, only to find webbing between her fingers. She gasped, pressing up against the rock behind her. A pink, scaled fish tail was where her legs once were. It glistened in the sunlight, reflecting a speckling of light onto her face.

"Smiley, I'm-"

"A mermaid," Smiley giggled, grinning wide. "Now you can breathe underwater!"

Jolean felt her neck, where papery gills had suddenly appeared! She stared down at the eraser floating on top of the water. "You-You really are magic!"

"What gave it away?"

She launched herself at him, her tail flapping against the surface of the water, pulling him into a tight hug. "Oh, thank you, Smiley! Now we can finally show those alligators who's the boss!" Her eyes glittered with adrenaline.

The friends sped out from behind the rock. The alligators were congregated together in a circle, seemingly confused as to where the delicious-looking pair had disappeared to. Jolean whistled loudly, and the giant monsters snapped their heads towards her.

"Hey you green beasts! Come and get us!"

The lizards hissed and immediately came tearing towards them.

"Uh, Jolean?" Smiley's voice wavered from behind her shoulder. "Shouldn't you be swimming away?"

"Nope," she grinned.

Jolean whipped her tail around, sending it crashing down on an alligator's head. It reeled back in a dizzying spiral. Another came at her from the side, its jaws narrowly missing her sparkly tail, which she swung around and knocked him square in the back. It let out a squeal, fearfully scrambling back to the others. The three remaining gators looked at her, their slit-eyes trained on hers.

She made a motion towards them, and they all went squalling off to where they came from, their tails propelling them forward.

"HahahHA!" Smiley exclaimed, doing a flip in the water. "That was amazing! Jolean, you're incredible." He stared up at her; two more white blotches had appeared in his drawn eyes-making them shine even brighter. She blushed, "Aw, it was nothing. Besides, you were the one who gave me this awesome tail! Without you, I would've given up for sure."

"Well, it's the least I can do for you."

"Are you this nice to all your friends?" She asked, cupping him in the palms of her hands.

"Well-"

"Wait just a minute!" Jolean's face scrunched up into a scowl, " 'All I can do is float,' huh?"

"Uh... about that..."

"You awful little liar!" She poked him in the stomach.

"Don't! That tickles!"

"Ooooh, you imp! How could you?" She smiled, chasing him around in the water.

Smiley stuck out his tongue at her, floating just out of reach. "Who was the one just thanking me?"

"Smiley, I'm serious. Why did you lie to me?" She frowned humorously, her arms crossed over her chest.

"There's a time and a place for things, my dear. I can't reveal too much-it might put you in danger."

"I can handle danger." She protested.

"Oh yeah?"

"Uh, how about a 'Oh, thank you, Jolean, for getting rid of those pesky alligators that would have eaten us!' "

"Okay, okay. I'm sorry for lying to you. And," he said, nestling into the crook of her neck, "Thank you for 'getting rid of those pesky alligators.' "

Jolean huffed, blowing her bangs away from her face. "Alright, I forgive you. But no more lies. Got it?"

"Pinky promise!"

"You don't have pinkies, Smiley."

"You caught that, huh?"

The two continued to joke with each other, leisurely swimming to their promised destination around the bend-like lemmings to the cliffs.

New Year's Resolutions:

written and designed by
ALESSIA PASSONI

Have you ever heard the phrase "New Year, new me"? Every new year, people claim that the next twelve months will be their year. New routines and wardrobes support the upcoming changes outlined in New Year's resolutions.

I myself fall into this trap. I claim it's my year but always stop mid resolution as challenges build up. You may ponder to yourself as you shuffle through the filing cabinets in your brain, reaching for the definition of a New Year's resolution: it is a promise to do something differently in the new year. This could be cutting back junk food or trying out for the school play. There are all sorts of New Year's resolutions to choose from, Such as joining gyms, focusing on school and even applying for a job. The real question is who is actually successful? Who actually is doing something different this year?

On average, an individual will keep their New Year's resolution for 36 days. That's crazy. Sophomore Elizabeth Broekhuizen has her own set of goals for the new year, including focusing on her mental health,self care and spreading body positivity.

"I myself have struggled with self love, and, in honor of this new year, I wanted to share it with others. I want them to know they are not alone, and it isn't weak to ask for help when you need it. Everyone is beautiful just the way they are no matter how your body looks."

This strong girl posted words of encouragement on her Instagram story, hoping others will become truly happy with themselves. She continues to remind others how beautiful they truly are and is always open to talk.

self love
live life to the fullest
stay organized
try new foods
body positivity

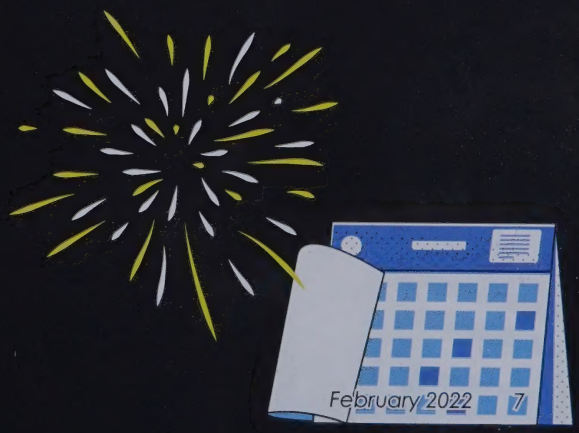
Elizabeth Broekhuizen (10)

Who is actually successful?

Another individual crushing their new year's goals is Austyn Davis (10). Her goals include continuing to improve in the sports she loves. "I really want to focus a lot more on soccer and basketball and I've been working really hard to practice outside of school practice," Davis said. With her mind in the right direction, anything is possible.

Taylor Ruggles (10) is fulfilling her promise as well. Her New Year's resolution includes volunteering more and helping her community. "I really wanted to get more involved and help out where it's needed. I volunteer at my church and I joined Key Club as a way to give back," Ruggles said.

It's amazing to see individuals striving to reach new goals and help people, as well as themselves, in this new year. These goals provide the starting point for a journey of self improvement. It's never too late to make a goal or New Year's Resolution. Just don't give up on it. Who knows, maybe it will change your life!



How To Beat the Blues

written and designed by
KATELYN STYBORSKI

The winter months are notoriously bleak—especially the months of January and February, when there aren't many holidays or celebrations to look forward to. Of course, there's always Valentine's Day, but for some this holiday only highlights the depression and loneliness that comes with these cold, dreary times. For those who suffer from seasonal depression (which is about 5% of the population, according to the American Psychiatric Association.) It can be hard to motivate yourself during this time of year. So what are some things you can do to cope with the winter blues?

Brian Waltz (12) states that he likes to experiment with art projects, as well as programming. He says that "it's a good way to distract myself, and while it can be rather annoying to find yourself unable to create something you envision, the feeling of accomplishment" makes it worth the time and effort you put into it.

Meghan Kelley (11) has found that "music and sing[ing]" has helped her cope with the winter blues.

"Singing is an amazing stress reliever and always puts me in a better mood," Kelley said. She also recommends reading, as a "good book will get me out of my thoughts pretty quickly."

Over the past few months, Leah Hembree (12) has developed an affinity for knitting, and is currently working on a darling blue and white blanket—perfect for the snowy cold winter!

When it comes to actually dealing with the depression and mental exhaustion that tends to plague people during these months, it's important to make sure to confront these issues. While finding a distraction is a good way to cope with these emotions, if you're not able to process your feelings, you could make things worse for yourself.

Waltz encourages people to "share some of the burden with those (you trust.)" He humorously adds that this may include, "sitting [...] out on your porch [...] to enjoy the cold air," or "interviewing your friends while they do their best politician impression." Regardless, he says that when you're struggling, the most important thing to focus on is doing something "true [...] and uplifting to you."

Kelley hopes that those suffering with seasonal depression can find "a group of people that you feel you can trust and enjoy their company. I really believe that having good support helps."

Do an art project!

Paint something

Create a sculpture

Build a miniature dollhouse

Cat Ahlersmeyer (11) also suggests that you "take any opportunity you have to go outside. Go on a walk, go out for a cup of coffee, drive around, just get out of the house for a while." It is extremely important to get some sunlight during these dull, cloudy days. As she says, "fresh air is a life saver."

Remember that it's okay to have negative emotions, and there's nothing wrong with feeling depressed. Winter is a depressing season, and many people get stuck in 'the blues.' But for those people who genuinely feel depressed and lonely and hopeless, tell someone you trust. No one should have to suffer alone.

Kelley (11) urges people not to isolate themselves during this time. She warns that it "is the worst thing you could do (to) cut off the people who care about you. Also, make sure you feel your feelings and don't try to pretend they aren't there."

Ahlersmeyer (11) begs you not to "ignore" your feelings or "push them deep down. Don't seclude yourself, because (if) you're struggling, it'll hurt more." However, she also recognizes that sometimes "stress is caused by (other) people," in which case, "you shouldn't force any contact you don't want."

Waltz (12) also included some advice for those struggling; make sure to not, "allow yourself to funnel into a vortex of depression or self hate." He attests that it's important to "balance expression of emotion with self control." While you're processing your negative emotions, you have to be careful to not let them take control. That is why it is so important to have a support system to keep you grounded.

Again, there are many ways to distract yourself from the negative feelings that come with the winter months. For example, when Ishmael from *Moby-Dick* feels like "methodically knocking people's hats off" he "quietly take[s] to the ship" (Melville 16). During the next couple of months, when the cold bites at your ears and freezes the tip of your nose, remember to reach out to those around you that you trust—share your emotions with others and make sure that you don't overwhelm yourself with negativity.

Having the blues sucks; and that's okay.

Mix-up your appearance!

Try a new hairstyle!

Dye your hair a new color!

Experiment with accessories

Get your hair cut!

The Van Gogh Experience

written and designed by
KATE HUTNER

As many of you know, living in Indiana comes with the consequences of having little to do. Yes, you can visit the art museum once a month, or travel down to Promenade Park and examine the polluted river. Still, many of us seek something more exciting. If this relates to you, the Lume Exhibit in Newfield, Indiana might provide a new adventure for you.

The Lume Exhibit is one of the few museums that displays Vincent Van Gogh's acclaimed art. The curators use over 150 digital projectors and a 30,000 foot area to display Van Gogh's paintings. As a result, the visitors receive a distinctly immersive experience. The display restarts every 60 minutes, but there is no time limit on the length of your stay: Visitors can sit, stand and wander through the artworks of the icon Van Gogh for as long as they please. The museum broadcasts a multitude of his art, from his iconic sunflowers to his detailed portraits. The experience is truly unforgettable. The paintings dance around you for hours on end. However, the excitement does not end there. As you stroll through a mirrored tunnel and into another portal of art, you come across the Café Terrace 1888, a pitstop containing snacks and drinks, decorated to make you feel as though you have wandered into a cafe in Southern Italy.

After you are rejuvenated from your break, you may return to the digital display of artwork or you may continue, entering into a space that allows you to become one of the paintings. This room may be one of the most popular, as everyone dreams of someone as talented as Van Gogh painting a portrait of them, right? One's dreams may come true as this exhibit allows you to take a picture and transform yourself into one of his paintings. After you are satisfied with your image, it is projected onto a wall of frames, fully finalizing the reality of your image.

Just as you think you are parting with an experience of a lifetime, you walk into the final room, which is possibly the most astonishing. The room may feel empty, as it does not have paintings dancing around you or your portrait on the wall. However, it holds the most prized possessions: "Landscape at Saint-Rémy" by Van Gogh, "Landscape near Arles" by Paul Gauguin and "House in Provence" by Paul Cézanne. All three of these paintings were painted in Southern France, and are significant in the world of famous painters. According to Allison Lantz (12), a visitor of the museum, she states that "When examining these paintings, I can't help but wonder about why these paintings are in Indiana?" It does make one ponder. Maybe Indiana is not as boring as it seems, it just takes a little more digging to find something truly captivating.

The exhibit comes to an end with a realistic set up of Van Gogh's painting "The Bedroom". Many guests take a seat in the bed, posing for a picture, and observing the details of what his bedroom looked like in person. Raegan Rhodehamel (12), another visitor of the museum, states, "it makes you wonder about what Van Gogh was thinking in the moment, and how he chooses to paint what he does."

The Lume Exhibit in Newfield Indiana is a prime example of a dream-like getaway from the classic cornfields and pothole roads of Indiana. Just visiting once will make you look at the world differently, forcing you to observe the dirty snow or endless factories as a possible painting. Who knows, maybe visiting the museum will inspire one of you to become an artist and next thing the world knows is that your paintings are dancing through the walls of museums, allowing others to escape from the world around them.

Photo Credit: Lyndsey Matthews/ Afar

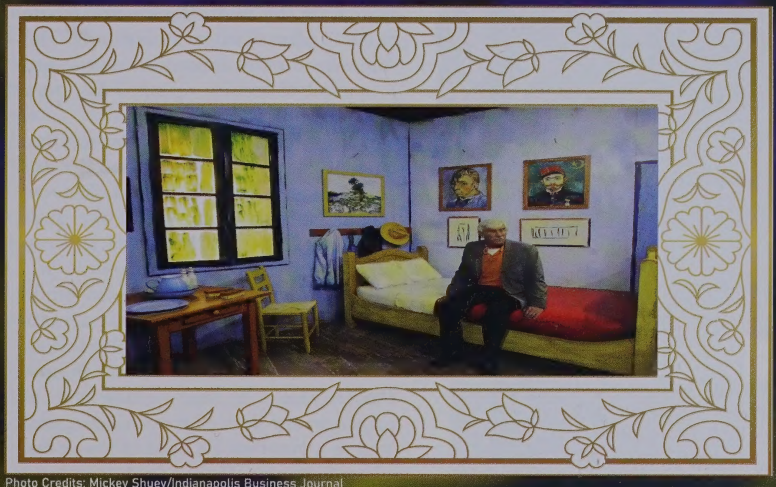


Photo Credits: Mickey Shuey/Indianapolis Business Journal

Photo Credit: Kelly de la Bastide/ Herald Bulletine

Iconic Couples Of History

written and designed by
GAIA SPLENDORE

Photo Credit: Getty Images

Photo Credit: Getty Images

Bonnie and Clyde

When thinking about popular outlaws from the West, Bonnie and Clyde come to almost everyone's minds. The famous, or more infamous, couple are a symbol of loyalty up until the very end.

Living during the Great Depression, their poverty stricken adolescence led them to a life of crime. Clyde Barrow in particular was drawn to car theft and burglary after he failed to keep low paying jobs.

Although he was able to elude conviction during his many arrests for a while, he was eventually locked behind bars. This is where Bonnie Parker comes in, visiting her beau in prison every day. She even smuggled him in a gun that he used to break out of confinement. If that isn't true love, then I don't know what is!

However, he was taken back in, but this time he was moved into a prison that Cylde could only describe as "a burning hell." After serving a harsh sentence, he was released on parole and tried to find honest work, making a real living.

Unfortunately, the cops at the time forbade him from keeping a job, coming into his place of employment and taking him in for questioning and in turn, they took away his chance of being a dedicated worker.

After being constantly shot down by a system that was supposed to help him, he turned back to crime with a former inmate Ralph Fults and of course, his love Bonnie. Although different people were swapped in and out during the gang's history, Bonnie and Clyde were a constant. Their crime spree—filled with bank robberies, police shootouts and grizzly murders—helped to solidify them as iconic criminals as well as lovers.

Ultimately, the two were betrayed by a friend who tipped off the police. After being cornered in an ambush, the two were killed side by side in a spray of bullets.

Although the death may be sad to some, no one was surprised that a life filled with such violence and crime ended early—even Bonnie seemed to predict it.

Only two weeks before their death, Bonnie wrote a poem titled "The Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde" that ended with the lines "Some day they'll go down together / And they'll burn them side by side / To few it'll be grief, to the law a relief / But it's death for Bonnie and Clyde."

Romeo and Juliet

Dominating high school English classrooms for centuries, it is hard to not know of Romeo and Juliet. Everyone's favorite (and slightly pedophilic) Shakespearian romantic relationship has an undeniable influence on today's pop culture.

Everyone is familiar with the basic conflict. There's two bitter families that have a prevalent blood feud but uh oh, there's a romance forming between one person on each side of the battling bloodlines! In the case of the play, Romeo—a Montague—is pinning over Juliet, a Capulet.

The play starts with a fight between the two families, emphasizing that there is bad blood between them. Meanwhile, Romeo is quite upset over his unrequited love with another woman as Juliet already has suitors in line.

After sneaking into a Capulet masquerade ball, Romeo quickly falls in love with Juliet. Once the party ends, he creeps back to her house and professes his love while looking up at Juliet on her balcony.

Then they get married. Yeah, it's a little fast but to each their own. After killing a "good for nothing" Capulet, Romeo is banished from the city and forced to leave. Naturally, he has to consummate his marriage before he goes. Juliet is now forced to marry her uninteresting suitor but will not abide by her fathers wishes.

Her plan to get out of her marriage is to take a potion which makes it seem as if she is dead, allowing her to fake her death and run off with Romeo. However, Romeo is not let in on the plan and returns to her, believing she is truly dead. This is all too much and Romeo kills himself. But of course, Juliet is not truly dead and she wakes up to see her dead lover, causing her to kill herself as well. Lot of death for a tale of love, huh?

This brutal play may not capture realistic love, but it is undeniably dramatic and memorable. From "West Side Story" to a B plot in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," the play is a large source of inspiration for many other works of art. Even Taylor Swift retold the story in her popular song "Love Story," which many may argue is even better than its source material.

Although their love is slightly toxic and definitely rushed, Romeo and Juliet provide a truly iconic depiction of young love and the naivete that comes with it.

Photo Credit: Metropolitan Litho. Studio

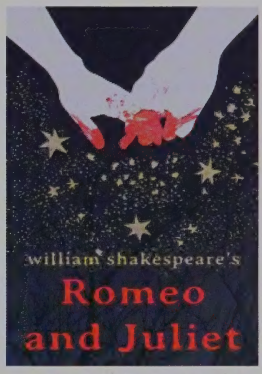


Photo Credit: Holly Dunn Design

Photo Credit: Getty Images

Kim and Kanye

Judging the two separately definitely exposes some questionable choices and at this point judging them together exposes some questionable choices, but their love was nothing if not iconic.

Although their true relationship was buried behind drama hungry media retellings and scandals galore, the love they shared for each other is undeniable. Ignore the whole divorce thing.

Valentine's Day Gifts

written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE

Valentine's Day is a day that most people look forward to if you're in a relationship that is. (If you aren't, don't worry. There are plenty of "national singles days" throughout the year.)

Valentine's Day officially became the romantic holiday it is known to be sometime during the 14th century. However, the real origin of Valentine's Day is unknown. Some think it grew from the Roman holiday Lupercalia, which was held in mid-February. One theory states that Saint Valentine was to be martyred by Claudius II Gothicus in 270 CE, and left a letter for his jailer's daughter signed "from your Valentine." It is also thought that he healed the jailer's daughter from her blindness.

Today, people traditionally celebrate the holiday is celebrated by giving and receiving gifts from people you love. Most often, couples give each other cards, flowers or a fancy dinner.

Commercially printed Valentine's Day cards have been around since the 1700s. In other words, the modern version of the holiday has almost always been associated with consumerism.

How much of the holiday is rooted in consumerism, though? In 2021 alone, US adults spent over $21 billion on Valentine's Day gifts. Each person spent an average of $164.76 on the holiday. It's easy to say that spending money is the foundation for the holiday. Still, it is always nice to receive a thoughtful gift from someone you love.

Kealynn Tunks (11)
Flowers

Elaina Schilt (10)
Chocolate or candy

Thomas Hill (11)
A book or a Barnes & Noble gift card

Alessia Passoni (10)
Chocolate

Luke Land (11)
Lots of chocolate to drown out me wanting love

Kate Hutner (12)
Daisy rock heart shaped guitar

Luke Gayer (11)
A date with someone

Hannah Shaw (11)
A heart shaped box full of kittens

Melody Thrasher (11)
A planned out event to go to

Kaiya Cronkhite (10)
Amazon gift card

Ganga Subramanian (11)
Peace and quiet or realistically a cat

Madeline Phuong (11)
The day off

Samuel Cole (10)
A night on the town

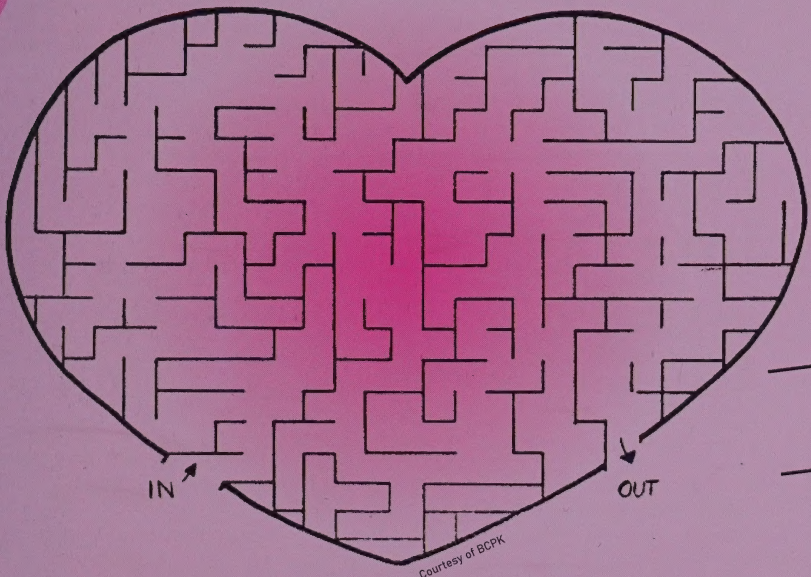
Gaia Splendore (11)
A good, nicely written card

Claire Elliott (12)
Some high-quality popcorn kernels

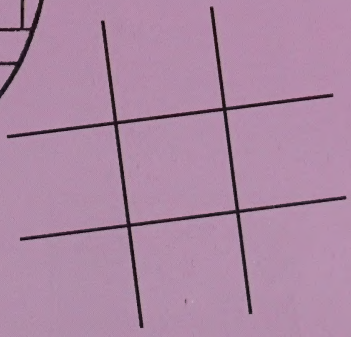
Graphic by Canva

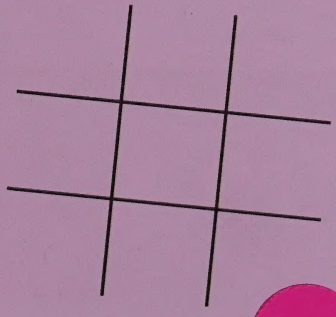
GAMES: THE VALENTINES DAY EDITION

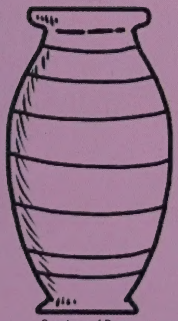
designed by
KEALYNN TUNKS



Courtesy of BCPK







Courtesy of Dunn

DRAW YOUR OWN FLOWERS

Graphics Courtesy of Canva

FEATURE

A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

written and designed by
ELAINA SCHILT

THE MAN BEHIND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Perhaps one of the most influential and outstanding men in all of American history, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., fought against racial segregation, injustice and discrimination during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s.

A firm believer in using non-violent methods to achieve his goals, King organized a series of peaceful protests in the form of marches and sit-ins to combat racial inequality.

At the age of twenty-five, King became the head pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Ernest James/New York Times/Getty

King delivers a sermon at his Dexter Avenue church in 1955.

As a pastor, he was able to take a leading role in the struggle for civil rights.

His Christian faith influenced his love for others and his wish for an equal society.

King's primary approach to achieving change was through peaceful means.

"From every mountainside, let freedom ring!" - Dr. King

In response to the arrest of Rosa Parks, a black woman who denied her bus seat to a white person, King helped organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott, during which African Americans protested against segregation by refusing to use public transportation.

National Park Service Archive

A group of demonstrators in Montgomery, Alabama boycott public transportation by walking instead of taking the bus.

Those opposed to the Civil Rights Movement were not afraid to use violence.

There were over forty bombings of schools, churches and houses in the city of Birmingham, Alabama during the Civil Rights Era.

FBI

The aftermath of the Birmingham, Alabama church bombing in 1963.

This violence reached its peak in 1963 when the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham was bombed by a group of Ku Klux Klan members and resulted in the death of four young girls.

This tragedy outraged King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, and on April 3, 1963, King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights organized a campaign against segregation that involved a series of marches, protests and sit-ins.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." - Dr. King

However, just nine days later, King was arrested during one of these protests.

While in prison, King wrote his famous "Letter From Birmingham Jail," in which he responded to critics by defending the methods he used to bring about change.

The letter drew lots of attention from the press, and it was published in newspapers all across the nation.

King waving to the massive crowd of over 200,000 at the March on Washington in 1963 where he gave his revolutionary "I Have A Dream" speech.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 17, 2022

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT SIGNED INTO LAW!

During the 13 years that King was a civil rights leader, he was arrested more than 20 times—an undeniable demonstration of his devotion to the cause.

The organization of perhaps the most well-known event of the entire Civil Rights Movement, the March on Washington, was also headed by King. On April 28, 1963, 250,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

It was here where King gave the most famous speech of his career, the iconic "I Have A Dream" speech.

In this speech, he highlighted the discrimination, segregation and injustice still present in 1963, a century after the Emancipation Proclomation was signed.

He also emphasized the urgency and importance of equality for all, regardless of race, saying, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Smithsonian

A group of protesters march to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on April 28, 1963 in support of civil rights.

King's unrelenting efforts to the advancement of civil rights eventually paid off.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination in public facilities, employment and in the federal government.

The law that nationally abolished discriminatory voting procedures, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was also a major victory in the fight for equal rights.

Cecelia Keck, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

King and President Lyndon Johnson on July 2 at the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Today, we celebrate King's life and legacy on the third Monday of January each year.

Also recognized as a national day of service, American citizens are encouraged to use this day to create a positive difference by serving and volunteering in their communities.

Though King was tragically assassinated in 1968, his legacy still lives on.
His message of peaceful resistance still resonates with Americans over fifty years after his death.

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." - Dr. King

King's perseverance, dedication and passion for improving the lives of others are what make him one of the most admirable figures in American history.

He did not once falter or stand down from what he believed in, making the United States a better place for all.

DEBRAND'S CHOCOLATE:

written and designed by
KAIYA CRONKHITE

DARK CHOCOLATE LOVERS:

COCONUT
DARK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE WITH SHREDDED SWEETENED COCONUT DRIZZLED ON TOP

CHOCOLATE SILK
DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH CREAMY DARK CHOCOLATE INSIDE

MOCHA CREAM
DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH MOCHA CREAM INSIDE

ORANGE CREAM
DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH ORANGE CREAM INSIDE

DARK RASPBERRY CREAM
RASPBERRY CREAM AND JUICE WITHIN A DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL

STRAWBERRY RHUBARB CARMEL
DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH RHUBARB CARAMEL SPRINKLED WITH STRAWBERRIES

DARK CHOCOLATE
DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH DARK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE

BRAZIL
SWEETENED BRAZIL NUTS, ALMONDS AND MACADAMIA NUTS WITH A HINT OF ORANGE PEEL ENCASED IN DARK CHOCOLATE

CHOCOLATE CONNOISSEUR:

BRAZIL
SWEETENED BRAZIL NUTS, ALMONDS AND MACADAMIA NUTS WITH A HINT OF ORANGE PEEL ENCASED IN DARK CHOCOLATE

AZTEC
PECAN BRITTLE WITH PECAN GIANDUJA, CAYENNE, AND CHILI POWDER, ALL WITHIN A MILK CHOCOLATE SHELL

CASSIA
CINNAMON GANACHE WITH TOUCHES OF SWEET HONEY AND PEAR

GIANDUJA
HAZELNUT PASTE WITH SALTED TOFFEE

JASMINE
MILK CHOCOLATE GANACHE WITH JASMINE TEA THEN COVERED IN MILK CHOCOLATE

PASSION
WHITE CHOCOLATE PASSION FRUIT GANACHE SURROUNDED BY MILK CHOCOLATE

PISTACHIO
CREAMY PISTACHIO SURROUNDED BY DARK CHOCOLATE, TOPPED WITH PEPITAS

RASPBERRY BALSAMIC
BALSAMIC VINEGAR, SWEET BASIL AND TART RASPBERRIES ENCASED IN WHITE CHOCOLATE

SALTED CAFE CARAMEL
SALTED CARAMEL WITH SWIRLS OF COFFEE, ENCASED IN MILK CHOCOLATE

WHAT STRIKES YOUR FLAVOR?

Graphics by Canva

DYNAMIC DUOS:

BLACK AND WHITE
WHITE AND DARK CHOCOLATE LAYERED TOGETHER IN A DELICIOUS TRUFFLE

MOCHA
DARK CHOCOLATE BLENDED WITH COFFEE COVERED IN MILK CHOCOLATE

THE TRIFECTA:

ALMOND
DARK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH MILK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE WITH ROASTED ALMONDS

DELUXE NUT
ILK CHOCOLATE INSIDE A DARK CHOCOLATE AND MILK CHOCOLATE SHELL TOPPED WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF NUTS

MILK CHOCOHOLICS:

CARMEL
MILK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE FILLED WITH CREAMY CARAMEL

MILK CHOCOLATE ROSE CARMELLA
MILK CHOCOLATE SHELL WITH CREAMY CARAMEL INSIDE

DEBRAND CARAMEL
MILK CHOCOLATE WITH BUTTERY CARAMEL INSIDE

EUROPEAN HEART
SOLID MILK CHOCOLATE BLENDED WITH HAZELNUT

GOURMET PB&J
MILK CHOCOLATE WITH PEANUT BUTTER AND BERRY AND CHERRY JUICES

VANILLA BUTTERCREAM
VANILLA BUTTERCREAM COVERED IN MILK CHOCOLATE

MACADAMIA HAZELNUT
MILK CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT TRUFFLE COVERED WITH MILK CHOCOLATE AND MACADAMIA NUTS

MILK CHOCOLATE
MILK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE WITH MILK CHOCOLATE SHELL

PEANUT BUTTER
PEANUT BUTTER AND SEASALT COVERED IN MILK CHOCOLATE

RASPBERRY
MILK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE BLENDED WITH RASPBERRY JUICES

The Oregon Trail Game: Fact or Fiction?

written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW

Imagine, you're sitting in eighth grade social studies class. You have been trying to win the Oregon Trail game for the past half hour. You're down two people and the wagon is hanging on by a thread. One sick ox is pulling it along the trail and you've been playing long enough that it's almost winter. Your travelers probably need new clothes but you traded all of your clothes for 100 pounds of meat thirty miles back. That meat has since gone rotten.

If this sends a chill down your spine, then that means you have been lucky enough to experience the joy that is The Oregon Trail. The game first came out in 1971 and was two lovely shades of black and neon green. The main idea was that you were the leader of your group and had to navigate them from Independence, Missouri to Oregon. You were faced with choices regarding which trail you took, how you interacted with strangers, whether to trade or hunt and what to do when your group got sick. Since then many new renditions, including a 2021 mobile game, have been released to the public.

The games themselves are addictive, frustrating, and entertaining. Their popularity alone invokes curiosity. Did that many people actually die of cholera? Were rivers really that hard to cross? Why were wagons so flimsy? All narrowing down to one question: How accurate is our retelling of the Oregon Trail really?

Relationships with Native Americans

One thing the 2021 version introduces is a mutually beneficial relationship between settlers and Native Americans. You meet various Natives from different tribes who are all willing to trade for fish, clothes and other things of that nature. The game itself starts off with a message about trying to portray Native Americans in a kinder and more historically accurate light. You now have the option to add Natives to your group of travelers.

This understanding of how settlers would have interacted with Native Americans was not always well incorporated into the game. The original game involved characters dying from being attacked by Natives on the trail. In reality, being killed by any tribe was highly unlikely. "It seemed more or less, I don't want to say friendly, but it wasn't hostile" said Mrs. Squires.

Despite the not uncommon American fear of being ambushed by the Native Americans, actual attacks were extremely rare. It was far more likely for a tribe to help a group of travelers pull a stuck wheel out of the mud or round up lost animals. They initiated trade with one another, which the 2021 game does a great job of showing. When stopping at river crossings, creeks, and towns you have the ability to trade furs and fish for things like medicine and clothes. As compared to the 1971 version, we have come a long way in accurately telling the story of our relations with Natives on the trails West.

Disease and Medicine

If you have played The Oregon Trail, then you have likely had virtual dysentery. Every now and again you get a little message at the bottom of your screen, kindly informing you that Little Sally Jane has cholera and the priest broke both of his legs trying to fix the wagon. But surely disease wasn't that bad, right? Wrong. Disease claimed somewhere around 30,000 people on all of the trail West. "These illnesses were fairly common given the lack of proper sanitation of the era. 'Back then' treatments were not available due to the lack of clean water" said Squires.

Cholera ran rampant on the trek West because the quality of water was so poor and, due to a lack of virtually any way to quickly filter the water, it was near impossible to avoid. The medicine available was nothing that would be truly able to cure cholera. The same applies to most everything else: dysentery, measles, smallpox and pneumonia. Their poor diet also led to scurvy, although this was not exclusive to the Oregon Trail. Fun fact: even people living in 1800s American cities fell victim to scurvy because they were not eating enough fruit or vegetables. Medicine wise, the 2021 game consists of herbal medicines and resting. In reality, most medicine was made of what could be found on the trail or very basic cough medicines.

The Travelers

When you first start playing the game you get to customize the group that you are put with. These options range from wealthy bankers to timid priests. This type of variety perfectly encapsulates just how mixed the group traveling west was. Everyone had a different reason to head to the West. This could be the promise of gold, the plethora of farmland or just the idea of adventure.

Traveling along any of these trails was going to be very expensive, hence the upside of having a banker on your team. It is not the land that was expensive but the food, clothes and wagon parts. Although it was highly unlikely that you could customize who you traveled with down to a tee in real life, having the option for all these different occupations and backgrounds is a lovely representation of how almost everyone in America caught the westward expansion bug.

Technology

Unfortunately for the poor souls traveling west, the western land of America was not just flat land for 2,000 miles. The trail itself crossed numerous rivers that you could not go around. The game presents you with three options to combat this obstacle. You can pay for a ferry, caulk your wagon or ford the river. The best bet was almost always paying for the ferry, but that could get expensive quick. On the other hand, fording the rivers put all of the supplies concealed in the wagon at risk. Not that any of these strategies were particularly safe. No matter what way you do it, crossing an unpredictable river in a worn out wooden box is a difficult feat.

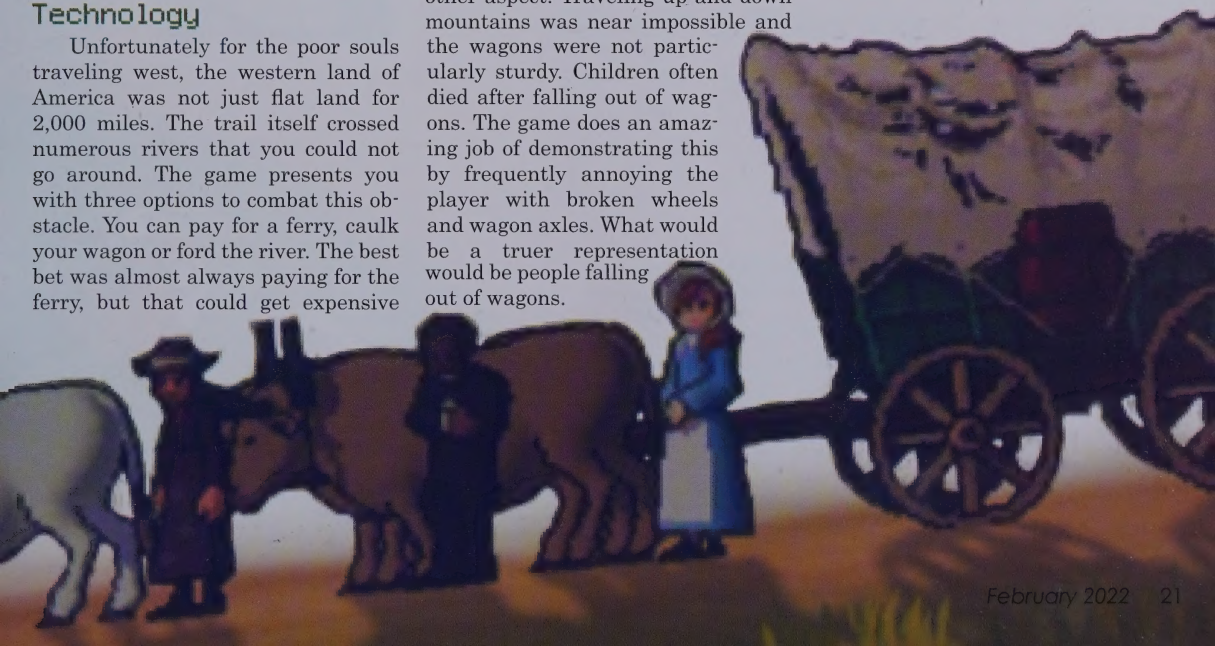
The newer game involves telling you the chance of success with each way of crossing the river. From a gameplay standpoint, this is extremely helpful, but from a historical perspective, it is not very accurate. Nobody could stare into the murky river water, swimming with bacteria waiting to give you cholera, and decide that there was a 45% chance of survival. This was one of the more frightening aspects of the trail that really highlights the bravery of some settlers.

The wagons, while sometimes handy for toting along 300 pounds of meat, were extremely inconvenient in every other aspect. Traveling up and down mountains was near impossible and the wagons were not particularly sturdy. Children often died after falling out of wagons. The game does an amazing job of demonstrating this by frequently annoying the player with broken wheels and wagon axles. What would be a truer representation would be people falling out of wagons.

In Conclusion

So as it turns out, the Oregon Trail is a shockingly accurate depiction of westward expansion in the 1800's. That being said, everything referenced in this article is coming from the 2021 game which I sat down and played for three hours in preparation to write this. Was it worth it? Maybe not. It would have been much easier to just research the game itself as I am surely not the first person to write about this. However, I choose not to think about the time I lost to pretending I had a group of brave young Americans to lead westwards towards wealth and prosperity.

In all honesty, I wish I could sit here and write about how historically inaccurate the game is and how disgraceful it is to American history, but it looks like Gameloft did their research.



DRAGON TALES

I had genuinely forgotten about this show until I was asking around about what favorite shows people had. Dragon Tales appears to be a fan-favorite. Basically, two siblings have a dragon scale that allows them to have adventures with dragons, and because the show is documenting their experiences, the show is called Dragon Tales.

This show is pretty early era PBS Kids. I did not realize it as a kid, but the proportions for the siblings are slightly off. It's not as unsettling as Sid the Science Kid, however it is slightly off putting. Dragon Tales is one of the older shows on this list and is targeted towards the younger half of the target audience, perhaps the proportions can be excused.

FETCH! WITH RUFF RUFFMAN

Ruff Ruffman is a strange dog. Back in the good old late 2000s and 2010s, Ruff Ruffman was the host of a game show that ran for five seasons. After the show's untimely end, Ruff Ruffman is fired. The spinoff is Ruff's new life as a janitor. I choose to ignore this development. As a result, this article will only focus on the reality television show.

It's actually a pretty okay show. I enjoy the character of Blossom, Ruff Ruffman's boss, and some of the challenges are entertaining. There are good aspects, however I now realize that a lot of this show's appeal came from the idea that any kid could be a contestant. Unfortunately, I have recently found that a kid had to live in the Boston area to even audition for the show. This officially ended my dream of ever being on the show, regardless of being far above the cut-off age (13, for anyone wondering).

Notable Characters: Princess Blossom Pepperdoodle Von Yum Yum, Ruff's grandparents

ARTHUR

A terrifying cast of anthropomorphic creatures that also has normal non-speaking animals as pets is supposedly the key to creating a successful TV show. Consider Arthur, the longest-running children's animated series in the United States. This is surprising information. However, what is even more surprising is that Arthur is the second longest-running animated series in the U.S., second only to The Simpsons. The show follows Arthur Read, an aardvark, and his family and friends as they interact with each other in the fictional town of Elwood City. It was initially made for four to eight year olds, however I've found that it's also made for sixteen year olds whose nostalgia causes them to constantly pontificate the past. In total honesty, Arthur was hilarious and still is today. There is a surprising amount of comedic value within this children's animated television series. I seriously recommend watching the old episodes.

But all good things must come to an end eventually. Sadly, Arthur is airing its final season in the winter of 2022, which is right now. Though, you might find those episodes unwatchable as animation quality has considerably decreased.

Notable Characters: D.W. Read, Francine Frensky, Muffy Crosswire

IN RETROSP

The year is 2010. You sit in front of your box tele
minutes, dying a slow death. You play with the sev
Several inches of snow fall outside of your window,
Arthur flares to life in front of your naive little eyes

Cable, even in those days, was simply not worth
of content is an outdated concept, even when nearly
had no access to cable, there was another, better opt
PBS Kids started out as PTV. PTV consisted of sh
Dot) exploring their fictional world and providing ed
and live-action shows. It was a far cry from what PB
Kids Channel, and it began to look like the progra
established as a part of the "Ready to Learn" initi
educational content to kids regardless of financial s

But with the advent of a new decade and the culm
childhood channel. In order to make this as accurat
in their prime. This is my documented experience.

CURIO

This show attempts to answer the ultimate
happen if man's best friend was a monkey? Cur
life and times of George, a curious monkey as th
companion The Man in the Yellow Hat as they
interesting characters within their city. As mon
with Curious George getting involved with vari
Curious George seems to be a fan favorite as And
erally adored Curious George" as a child. It's a si
some show. Self-explanatory and solid.

MART

Marth
and the le
according
since. The
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enjoy the p
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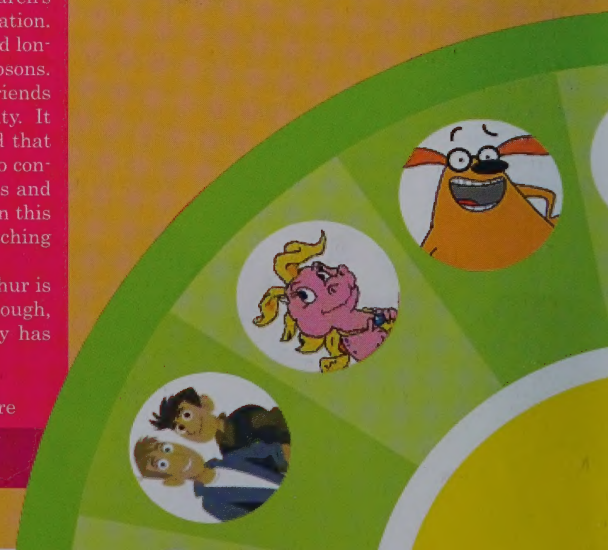


T: PBS KIDS

written and designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

ice box in hand, as it flickers on and off every couple of
hapen Silly Bandz you have wrapped around your arm.
gn that tomorrow will be a snow day. Another episode of
ood.
. To pay for the luxury of watching ads for five minutes
dy and their mother had cable. Luckily for the kids who
Kids. Created one fateful, warm summer night in 1994,
had characters that looked like the logo (see Dash and
l content to kids. For older kids, there were music videos
ould soon become. In 1999, it was rebranded as the PBS
hich would be the forefront of our childhoods. As it was
of the shows that aired were required to provide early

f the 2010s, it's finally time to take a look at this beloved
ible, I watched an episode from each one of these series

GEORGE

n: what would
rge follows the
ggests, and his
with the very
monkey does,
ks and antics.
enzie (11) "lit-
et, and whole-

SPEAKS

average dog; then, she drank some alphabet soup,
eled to her brain instead of her stomach—at least,
me song. Now, she talks and has not stopped talking
n is very nice and easy on the eyes (especially com-
ence Kid) and the theme song is absolutely flawless.
ell done for a children's television show. I find that I
more than the people on the show. Some episodes are

WORDGIRL

Apparently, PBS Kids really liked the dynamic of a human and
monkey being friends. Wordgirl—secret identity 5th grader Becky Bot
ford—and her sidekick Captain Huggy Face— secret identity Bob—figl
crime in their fictional city. I enjoy the secret identity plot greatly. N
body in the city seems to make the assumption that the only girl in th
entire city with a monkey might be the superhero with a monkey. Th
show is genius. For being a vocabulary learning show, it's incredibly e
tertaining.

As a child, this was my introduction to satire. The Narrator hel
nothing back and the characters felt real (as real as characters in kid
cartoons can be). The villain's character designs are iconic. There's
villain that looks like a sandwich who does sandwich related crimes,
mad scientist who is fused with a mouse that does mouse related crime
a butcher who does butcher related crimes and a fellow 5th grader wh
builds giant robots that can destroy whole buildings. There is a surpri
ing amount of emotional depth to Dr. Two-Brains' (the mouse villai
villainy, as he used to be Becky's mentor. The final unaired episode
WordGirl depicts a very plausible fight between two friends. This sho
truly rivals that of most mainstream blockbuster movies these day
which is certainly saying something about the content being produce
today.

Notable Characters: The Narrator, Dr. Two-Brains

SID THE SCIENCE KID

There is only one reason I have included and name dropped this s
ries as a part of this list: I do not like this show. Not for the plot, them
song or educational content, but for one reason and one reason only: th
animation. Everything about the way the characters are drawn and th
way they move and interact is unsettling. The character design is aby
mal. This is no one's favorite show.

THIS ARTICLE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR SPARTANA STAFF FROM READERS LIKE YOU. THANK YOU!

Unique English Classes Offered at Homestead

written and designed by
MELODY THRASHER

Themes in Literature: Travel Writing
Course Code: E316
Available for: Grades 11 and 12

If you enjoy exploring new areas and documenting your experiences, this class is for you! Mr. Beer teaches you ways to improve your travel writing skills in this course. You will learn how to be more attentive to the sensory details of your surroundings. Improving grammar and sentence structure is also a fundamental aspect of this course.

Students are encouraged to go out, record their experiences and return to class with notes of what details stood out to them. For the travels, Mr. Beer makes sure to clarify that these trips do not have to be far. Students can go to places nearby like a local shop, event or even a hike. What matters is that the student pays close attention to their five senses: sight, sound, touch, taste and smell.

With a writing tools book and a well-known piece of travel writing literature, the class offers beneficial knowledge on how to write more effectively and powerfully. Former Travel Writing student Hannah Shaw (11) said the most likable part of this course was that it "had very open essay prompts for pretty much all of [its] essays." In other words, she could write pieces that she "actually wanted to."

This course seeks to push writers to move past their previous literary analysis skills that were learned in English 9 and 10. With peer editing from classmates and feedback from the teacher, students will get sufficient evaluations and criticism to better their writing.

Students who aspire to travel to new places and gain a better depth of perspective on those places will love taking this class. The motto for this course, "pay attention," perfectly summarizes Mr. Beer's main goal for his students in this course.

Ethnic Literature
Course Code: E453
Available for: Grades 11 and 12

This class is great for those who want to broaden their understanding of multicultural issues. Mrs. Whitt teaches students the importance of understanding how people of different ethnic backgrounds have experienced life through various historical events.

According to Mrs. Whitt, students most enjoy the class discussions, group projects and being exposed to writers from various backgrounds. Discussing the significance and relevance of different cultural backgrounds is something that will be heavily covered in this class.

Former Ethnic Literature student Hope Carnahan (11), said that the best part of this class was that "it opened [her] mind to think about other people's perspectives in a way that [she] normally wouldn't" and it helped her "understand certain racial issues better."

In addition to the literature read in the class, students will learn a great deal about different cultural backgrounds from guest speakers. Speakers from the Fort Wayne community will share their experiences and traditions with the class to provide a better understanding of their culture. Due to COVID-19 the class has held off on doing this recently, but Mrs. Whitt wants to continue to do it sometime in the future.

Not only is this a class enjoyed by many students, but it

is also one in which they dive deeper into cultural topics that they otherwise would not have. Mrs. Whitt expresses the importance of the material covered. She wants "students to realize that there is amazing literature outside of the world of classics and that people tend to be more similar than different." She goes on to say that "it is important to expose yourself to different worlds and different types of literature." Those looking to be more informed about multicultural and racial issues should definitely look into taking this course.

Novels and Screenwriting
Course Code: E319
Available for: Grades 11 and 12

A new class that will be offered at Homestead during the 2022-2023 school year is Novels and Screenwriting. In this course, students have the opportunity to work diligently on one big project for the semester—either a novel or a screenplay. Mr. Beer hopes that in this new class, students will "really enjoy getting to work on an extended project in an English class" and that they will appreciate "doing one thing and really working on it."

With English classes, there is typically the expectation of multiple smaller pieces of writing, or a few essays throughout the year. There aren't many opportunities for a more lengthy and thought out project such as the one that will take place in this course. In this course, however, students will be able to really learn "how to create a longer work of fiction... and how to go about executing a screenplay or novel."

Mr. Beer hopes that he can provide the class with useful opportunities to grow immensely as a writer. With feedback from other students and from the teacher himself, students will be set in their process of creating.

By the end of the semester, students will also have the opportunity to submit their work to various competitions, such as the Scholastic Art and Writing competition. If the thought of becoming a screenwriter or novelist appeals to you, this course may be something worth looking into.

Student Publications: Newspaper
Course Code: EJ211/212
Available for: Grades 10,11 and 12

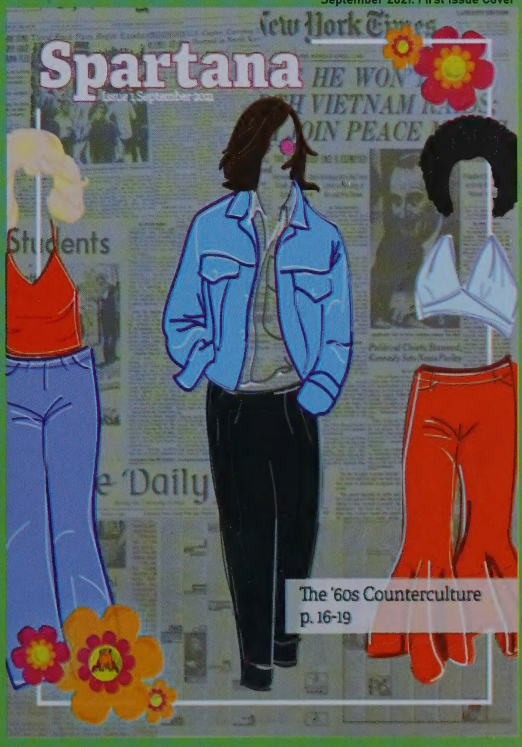
Those looking to share their writing with the school will thoroughly enjoy the Student Publications course. After taking Journalism I and Journalism II, or getting a teacher recommendation, students have the opportunity to join the newspaper staff. This course counts as a fine arts credit and can be repeated throughout a student's high school career.

There are numerous topics that students could write about in Spartana, as there is a lot of freedom in choosing what to write about. Many topics coordinate to the month that the specific issue is published. For example, there is a Valentine's day themed piece this month because it is February. Other pieces are more random and informative about topics that students take interest in. After getting the topic approved by the editors, students are able to take their story where they want to and express themselves creatively.

In addition to writing the piece, the student artistically designs their spread in Adobe InDesign. Mrs. Brehm, teacher of the Student Publications course, said that "it gives [students] an opportunity to write creative stories and write about what they are interested in. It's important for their voices to be heard and the school newspaper is the perfect outlet for that. I am merely the adviser. The editors run the show from the brainstorming sessions all the way to the print shop. I think being on the newspaper staff teaches many useful lifelong skills such as responsibility, organization, communication, writing, editing, proofreading, graphic design, leadership, the importance of meeting a deadline...the list goes on and on."

If creatively researching and writing about various topics, sharing your work and collaborating with other newspaper students is appealing, this course is for you!

September 2021: First Issue Cover

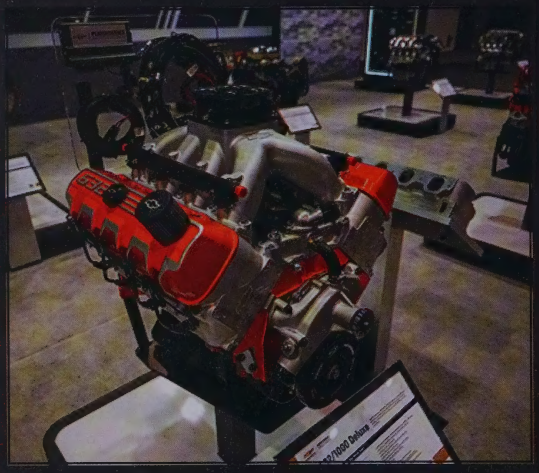


Automotive Advancements Of 2021

written and designed by
SAMUEL COLE

Chevrolet ZZ/632 Crate Engine

Back in 2018, Dodge released the Hellephant Crate Engine at SEMA (Specialty Equipment Marketing Association). It was a supercharged 426 Hemi, reaching around 1,000 horsepower. However, they only made 1,000 engines. But in the fall of 2021, Chevrolet lost their minds and released the ZZ/632. A naturally-aspirated, 632 cubic-inch big block, making 1,004 HORSEPOWER ON 93 OCTANE PUMP GAS, and not to mention a 12.0:1 compression ratio. On October 28, 2021, Hoonigan released the first video in a three part series, detailing the build of a third-generation Camaro that they stuffed the new engine into. Not to mention, Hoonigan received the very first production ZZ/632 ever made. But, as with all great things, there are certain drawbacks. The engine costs somewhere around $30,000, and the engine is physically bigger than most other crate engines. Still, with a welder and a hammer, anything is possible.



2023 Corvette Z06

Also in the fall of 2021, Chevy announced its newest and most powerful production car ever, the 2023 Corvette Z06. With a weight of roughly 3,500 lbs, the LT6 engine (a 670 HP, 5.5 liter V8) propels the Corvette from 0 to 60 in just 2.6 seconds, bordering on supercar territory. The LT6 is the most powerful naturally-aspirated engine in a production car. In addition to a new power plant, the new Corvette has changed visually, and to quote Chevrolet's website, the Z06 was "sculpted to soar." The Z06 comes with wider front and rear fenders as well as wider fascias. With the Z07 performance package, a carbon fiber rear wing is added, and optional carbon fiber wheels drop 41 lbs. off the car's weight. The worst part about the Z06? The price tag. The Z06 comes in at around $96,000, which is good considering the fact that you're getting supercar performance for supercar money.

Audi Skyshpere Concept

In August of last year, Audi challenged what a concept car could be with the Skysphere concept. It's an all-electric roadster, making nearly 650 HP, and 553 lb.-ft. of torque. But probably the most impressive thing about this car—besides being 4,000 lbs and going 0 to 60 in 4 seconds— is that it is basically a transformer. When the driver activates "GT Mode" (Grand Touring Mode) the wheelbase of the car extends by 9.8 inches, bringing the length from 194.4 to 204.3 inches. Equipped with rear wheel steering and adaptive air suspension, the new concept is packed with all the newest tech from Ingolstadt. When GT mode is activated, the steering wheel and pedals retract into an invisible area and has an extended wheelbase that provides more legroom. In GT mode, the car becomes almost fully autonomous, with sensors, radars and cameras doing all the work for you. The car was inspired by the Horch 853 and its roadster design. The Skysphere is set to release sometime in 2025, at an unconfirmed price. For the amount of tech in this thing, it seems like it would be worth the price Audi puts on it.

Mustang Mach-E GT

At SEMA 2021, Ford released the Mustang Mach-E GT—the performance model of the newly released Mustang Mach-E—providing a glimpse into Ford's future. The Mach-E GT makes 480 HP and 600 lb.-ft. of torque. Its two electric "Eluminator" motors and all-wheel-drive move the Mach-E GT from 0-60 in 3.5 seconds.

Eluminator Crate Engine

Also at SEMA 2021, Ford officially released the "Eluminator," a fully electric and rather small crate engine. This is considerably less invasive than most modern EV swaps, which prompts builders to put these in, compared to the previous bulky EV systems. This new crate engine is the same one in the Mustang Mach-E GT, and is expected to be on par with Chevrolet's electric crate engine, the "eCrate." This electric engine makes around 200 HP, and comes with a wiring harness, 60.0-kWh battery, inverters and converters to make it all work. The way Ford revealed the crate engine was by displaying a fully custom Ford F100, with the Eluminator engine in it.

G.O.A.T.S

Are Goats, the Animals, the Greatest of All Time?

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

Yes. They are.

First, from a logical standpoint, any sports G.O.A.T. that humanity champions would cower under the athleticism of a real goat. Tom Brady cannot run as quickly, Michael Jordan cannot jump as high, and no human being will ever have the same capacity to climb.

Part of goats' superiority also comes from the fact that they are timeless.

They simply refuse to die. Most archeologists date the goat genus back to the Neolithic era, and they now thrive in nearly every climate. Although goats have undoubtedly evolved, as all creatures do, few mammals can claim such generational immortality. Darwin called it survival of the fittest. I call it survival of the greatest.

However impressive goats' survival is, though, mere existence does not constitute greatness. No, the greatness of goats extends beyond their physical potency and self-sufficiency. We cannot forget that they are also giving. For centuries, goats have served as the pillars of human civilization across numerous continents. As herd animals, they provide the meat, milk and fur needed for successful human settlement.

Moreover, the creatures are technological feats in themselves. Their ability to eat pounds of grass daily surely turned unsuitable landscapes into fertile, farmable land. Today, goats are actually taking jobs from lawnmowers on some college campuses.

In Guangzhou, the City of the Five Goats, ancient legend states that after a long famine, five different-colored gods descended on five respectively-colored, rice-bearing goats. The goats helped the Ji people immigrate to Guangzhou. They carried the grains on their back and the meat on their bones. Something tells me

that they also brought some fun.

Still, I struggle to capture goats' magnificence. Nor am I alone in that respect. The Greeks certainly understood the mystique that surrounds the hoofed and horned animals. In fact, they wisely named the goatish god Pan, which translates to "all."

Pan held vitality and vigor, lust and life. Myths said he was the son of Hermes, but popular belief whispered that he was born from an orgy between Penelope and her suitors. Pan was both the goatherd and the goat, but never the goaded. He represented the balance that so many religions and philosophers try to achieve: he was part of his herd yet maintained his identity and self-control. For that reason, he could not be swayed by the proddings of others, but happily influenced them with his hypnotic songs. The best part about Pan, though, was that he was a party animal. So much so, that he inspired a cult of like-minded bohemians.

Although their bleats are not music to all, goats still have the same power and will that was invested in Pan. They are free spirits guided only by themselves and their kin. Anyone who has encountered a goat will attest to their mental fortitude. They will eat basically anything, no matter the social or physical consequences. However, such attitudes are not always appreciated by those who are being literally or metaphorically gnawed upon. For instance, Baphomet, the Sabbatic Goat, incited a particularly indignant response from the Church.

But the religious controversy about whether or not God has a goat head is really of no consequence to the greatness of goats. It is the personality of goats that escalates them from good to great. They are friendly yet stubborn, pious and mischievous. They dwell on the cliffs of arid landscapes and climb the peaks of snowy mountains. Their heads hold noble crowns, and their rectangular pupils hold ancient wisdom. And they live on, despite time and whatever characterizations we create for them.

Every day, I drive past two goats who roam a field. Every day, I smile at them and because of them. So, when American rapper LL Cool J popularized the acronym G.O.A.T. in his eighth studio album, I thought it was no coincidence.

The Five Goat Statue in Guangzhou

Voting Rights: Is D

Democracy: the will of the people. One of the fundamental aspects of American democracy is the ability of the people to influence the government by electing officials who will, should, and must represent them. Unfortunately, the right to vote has been restricted and outlawed throughout American history. Even at our nation's founding, only land-owning white men were allowed to vote. African Americans, time and time again, have had to fight for their right to vote and more, be it during the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement or Black Lives Matter.

Just two years ago, the 2020 presidential election saw unprecedented turnout, to a level unseen since the 1900s. For the first time since 1992, an incumbent president failed to win a second term. President Joe Biden's victory was made possible by the high minority turnout. However, many Republican politicians and controlled state governments claimed there was "election fraud." Republicans also sought to enact policies to "secure election integrity." Many of these actions would unfairly impact low-income and minority voters, all of whom make up a core voting block for the Democrats and are vital for Democratic election victories. Exit polls from AP VoteCast showed that 91% of African Americans, making up 11% of voters, and 54% of voters making under $50,000, about 38% of voters, supported President Biden. Of course, that is without mentioning the impact of gerrymandering and voter disenfranchisement. Because of these attempts by Republicans to restrict access to voting, Democrats have attempted to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, both bills failed in the Senate because of the filibuster. The filibuster is basically a way for Senators in the minority party to block any bills they do not like since it requires 60 votes to overturn a filibuster.

The most critical parts of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act were to expand voter protections, federally review states changing voting laws, and to inform citizens of any changes to voting practices at the state level. The For the People Act would finally end gerrymandering (redistricting districts to favor one political party over the other), reform campaign finance laws, make it easier to vote and generally, improve American democracy. Additionally, there is also the Freedom to Vote Act, a more moderate form of the For the People Act created after the For the People Act failed to pass the Senate.

American democracy as a whole is in danger. Alas, the Freedom to Vote Act is not expected to pass the Senate either. A moment where a significant portion of the American population believes a free and fair election was stolen. Republicans make up about 40% of the US population with 66% believing the election was stolen according to a Washington Post-University of Maryland. In total, that would mean there are 85 million Americans who believe former President Trump won the 2020 election. The same people who also believe it is perfectly acceptable to storm the heart of American democracy: the Capitol building. 66% of Republicans believe that the January 6 Capitol riot was not an attack on American democracy while 77% don't hold Trump responsible for the riots based on a poll published by Quinnipiac University. The right to vote needs to be protected. Protecting voting rights shouldn't be seen as a controversial opinion, but it is certainly a divisive topic among Republicans. As seen in a poll from the Data for Progress, Democrats support the Freedom to Vote Act by a +79 margin (85%-6%) with Republicans by only at a +23 margin (54%-31%).

I wholeheartedly support both the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, the For the People Act, and other attempts to expand democracy. American democracy will continue to wither away unless action is taken by the people who are supposed to represent us. We are seeing increasing divides, partisanship, violence and authoritarianism across this country.

If the right to vote cannot even be protected, then can the United State even be considered a country that represents the will of the people? Does your vote matter? Can change be achieved? I'm certainly worried about the future of America, as all people across the political spectrum should be. Still, I have hope that change can happen. Slowly, we can achieve progress so that the United States can truly be considered a democracy. A place where the will of the people matters -even Homestead students that are concerned about voting rights and the future of American democracy as a whole.

"The right to vote is a pivotal freedom characteristic of American ethos, but it seems like it has become a battleground surrounding state's rights recently, putting voting rights in danger." (Olivia Schenkel, 12)

"Since the recent election, I think America is slowly inching in the right direction, with many new bills being drafted in relation to protecting voter's rights." (Michelle Obioma, 11)

mocracy in Danger?

written by
LUKE GAYER & THOMAS HILL
designed by Luke Gayer

In the past few years, the United States has seen a heightened interest in election law, culminating in Democrats' proposal of the Freedom to Vote Act. The Freedom to Vote Act is predicated on the idea that state laws are making it difficult to vote in elections. However, states are actually passing laws that make it easier to vote (in-person) while simultaneously making elections more secure. For example, Georgia's controversial voting bill actually extended early voting, which many liberal commentators overlooked. So, why are we still trying to pass a bill based on that premise? The answer is simple-Democrats see an opportunity to make it easier to control elections, as well as to make it easier for voter fraud to take place. Let's go through some of the issues with the Freedom to Vote Act.

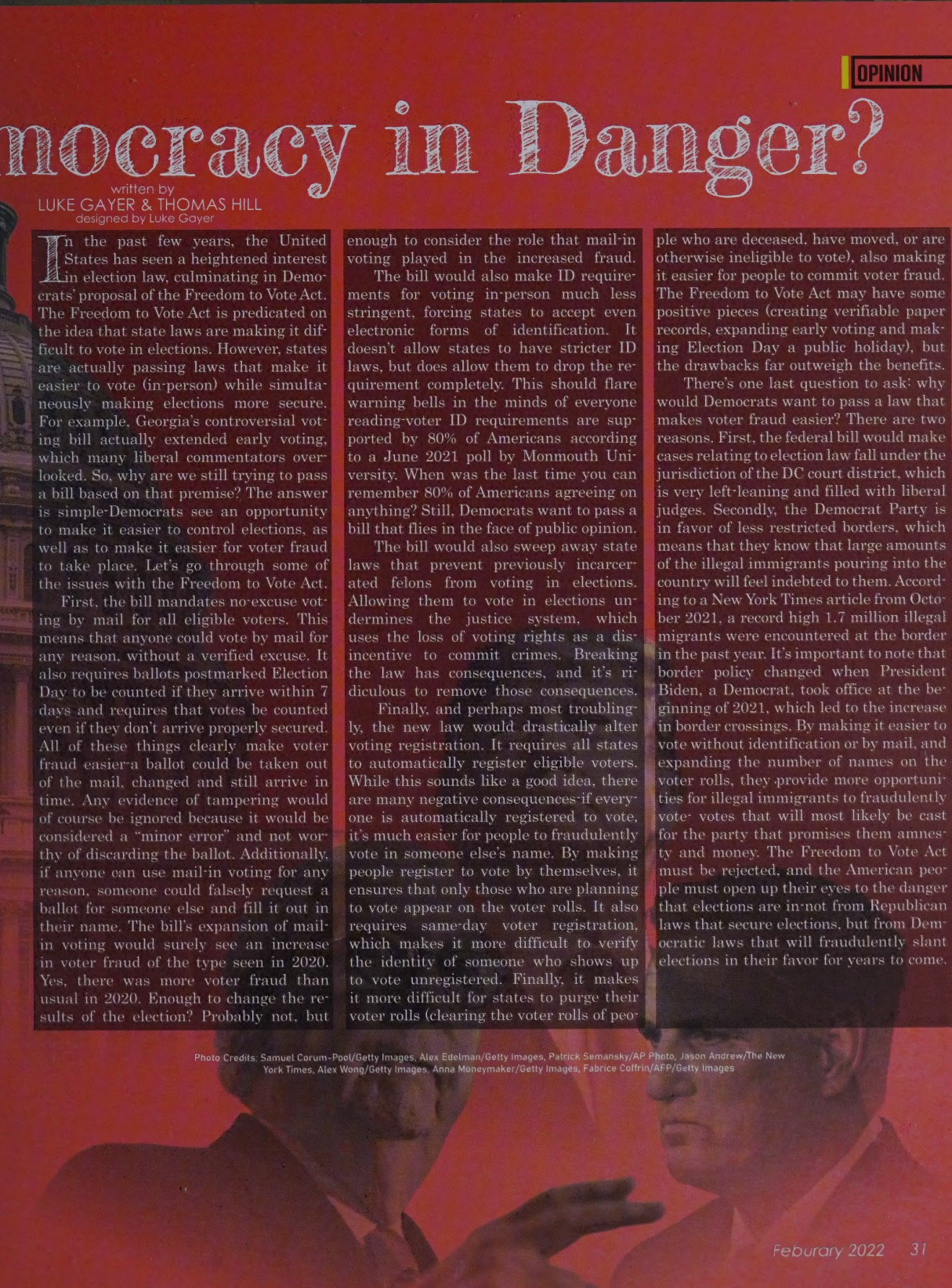
First, the bill mandates no-excuse voting by mail for all eligible voters. This means that anyone could vote by mail for any reason, without a verified excuse. It also requires ballots postmarked Election Day to be counted if they arrive within 7 days and requires that votes be counted even if they don't arrive properly secured. All of these things clearly make voter fraud easier-a ballot could be taken out of the mail, changed and still arrive in time. Any evidence of tampering would of course be ignored because it would be considered a "minor error" and not worthy of discarding the ballot. Additionally, if anyone can use mail-in voting for any reason, someone could falsely request a ballot for someone else and fill it out in their name. The bill's expansion of mail-in voting would surely see an increase in voter fraud of the type seen in 2020. Yes, there was more voter fraud than usual in 2020. Enough to change the results of the election? Probably not, but enough to consider the role that mail-in voting played in the increased fraud.

The bill would also make ID requirements for voting in-person much less stringent, forcing states to accept even electronic forms of identification. It doesn't allow states to have stricter ID laws, but does allow them to drop the requirement completely. This should flare warning bells in the minds of everyone reading-voter ID requirements are supported by 80% of Americans according to a June 2021 poll by Monmouth University. When was the last time you can remember 80% of Americans agreeing on anything? Still, Democrats want to pass a bill that flies in the face of public opinion.

The bill would also sweep away state laws that prevent previously incarcerated felons from voting in elections. Allowing them to vote in elections undermines the justice system, which uses the loss of voting rights as a disincentive to commit crimes. Breaking the law has consequences, and it's ridiculous to remove those consequences.

Finally, and perhaps most troublingly, the new law would drastically alter voting registration. It requires all states to automatically register eligible voters. While this sounds like a good idea, there are many negative consequences-if everyone is automatically registered to vote, it's much easier for people to fraudulently vote in someone else's name. By making people register to vote by themselves, it ensures that only those who are planning to vote appear on the voter rolls. It also requires same-day voter registration, which makes it more difficult to verify the identity of someone who shows up to vote unregistered. Finally, it makes it more difficult for states to purge their voter rolls (clearing the voter rolls of people who are deceased, have moved, or are otherwise ineligible to vote), also making it easier for people to commit voter fraud. The Freedom to Vote Act may have some positive pieces (creating verifiable paper records, expanding early voting and making Election Day a public holiday), but the drawbacks far outweigh the benefits.

There's one last question to ask: why would Democrats want to pass a law that makes voter fraud easier? There are two reasons. First, the federal bill would make cases relating to election law fall under the jurisdiction of the DC court district, which is very left-leaning and filled with liberal judges. Secondly, the Democrat Party is in favor of less restricted borders, which means that they know that large amounts of the illegal immigrants pouring into the country will feel indebted to them. According to a New York Times article from October 2021, a record high 1.7 million illegal migrants were encountered at the border in the past year. It's important to note that border policy changed when President Biden, a Democrat, took office at the beginning of 2021, which led to the increase in border crossings. By making it easier to vote without identification or by mail, and expanding the number of names on the voter rolls, they provide more opportunities for illegal immigrants to fraudulently vote- votes that will most likely be cast for the party that promises them amnesty and money. The Freedom to Vote Act must be rejected, and the American people must open up their eyes to the danger that elections are in-not from Republican laws that secure elections, but from Democratic laws that will fraudulently slant elections in their favor for years to come.



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Spartana

Issue 6 March 2022

COVER designed by Thomas Hill
TABLE OF CONTENTS designed by Ganga Subramanian

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LUKE LAND (11)

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Letter from the Editor

"March!" we yell to the thawing world of spring. With our hearts and our small talk, we rush the warming temperatures to pick up their pace and the yawning flora to get a move on. Unfortunately, at least for our selfishness, Nature is not an army to command. She is fickle and happily so.

Her playfulness, however, is kind. At least I think so. When we all anguish over the frozen daffodils and the frosty chills of early spring, we are reminded that we are powerless. The weatherman becomes a scam-artist, and our carefully engineered sense of control blooms into helpless hope for warmer days.

That hope can awaken other hopes with it. Our excited longings for the frisky weather of spring unsettle our minds' frozen grounds. Other desires germinate and begin to make their way toward the light of day. When I was younger, about fourth grade or so, this emergence from mental hibernation culminated in a spring reading frenzy. I ran through the entire "Maze Runner" series in about two weeks.

In high school, the strongest seed is not the desire to do more work, but to do less. It is the seed of a potato. In March, it is my conviction that we are all potatoes religiously awaiting spring break.

Potatoes have great value. They are one of my favorite foods. Still, and I say this reluctantly, they do not possess striking beauty. Their talent lies in storing energy rather than presenting it. So, while we nourish our hopes for languor, let us give rise to other hopes, too.

Claire Elliott

Astrology

The Science of the Stars

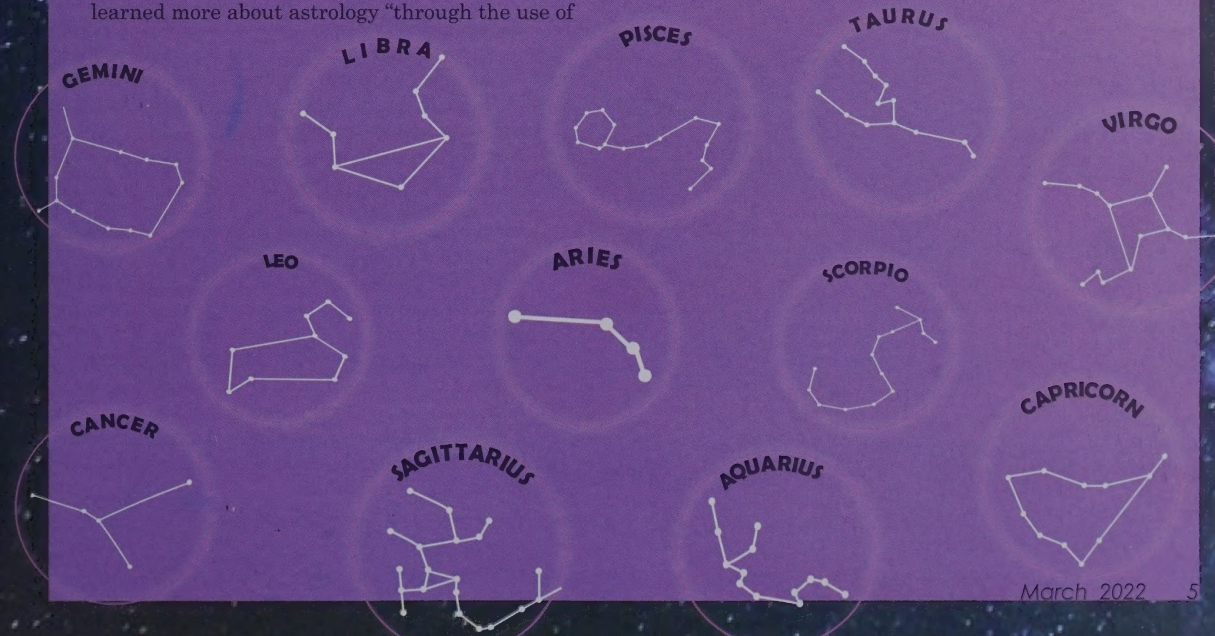
written and designed by
KEALYNN TUNKS

Astrology has strongly impacted our society in the past few years. Humans have been measuring the stars for as long as humanity has existed, but astrology has greatly altered since its origins. For many years, astronomy and astrology have been viewed as one in the same, but as humanity evolved, so did our knowledge. We no longer take a fear-based approach to astrology and many people have a basic understanding of what it is.

Kevin Burk, renowned astrologer+ and author, wrote an entire book to educate people on birth charts and how to read them. Burk writes, "Astrology can be a powerful tool for healing and transformation, it can be a key that can unlock a greater spiritual connection to the universe," (Astrology: Understanding the Birth Chart). I had the pleasure of speaking to him! Burk says his first experience with astrology was "through the daily horoscope 'Sun Sign' columns." He also stated that "virtually every newspaper and magazine had a horoscope column of some kind or other." Burk and other curious people were educated on astrology through many forms of media. He learned more about astrology "through the use of books." Now, however, many people are educated on astrology through social media such as Instagram and Snapchat. Snapchat specifically has a daily horoscope feature!

Many people use a plethora of different apps to keep track of their horoscopes. Katie Carrel (11) prefers to use Co-Star. She said, "It's such a great app if you want to learn more about astrology." Carrel has lots of background knowledge on the world of astrology, "I've always thought it was interesting that everyone's zodiac signs for their sun, moon and rising (and the other planets) are always unique!"

Your sun sign determines your ego and identity. Your moon sign rules your emotions, moods and feelings. It's likely the sign you see yourself as the most when you're alone or very comfortable with the people around you. Your ascendant, or rising, is the "mask" you present to people. This can be your personal style and how you present yourself to new people. You can find out all your signs by simply searching "birth chart" online, or using the co-star app and inserting some simple information!



The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser

To my dear brothers:

Chapter Eight: The Occurrence

written and illustrated by
KATELYN STYBORSKI
designed by Thomas Hill

"What's going on?" cried Jolean, and she held fast to the rungs of the bed frame.

Smiley floated a few inches off the ground, a terrible affliction on his doodled face. He turned to Jolean with such ferocity that she flinched.

"It's happening."

"Smiley?" Her voice shook.

The eraser looked away from her, focusing on something beyond her understanding. Behind him, there was a blinding flash of light—purple—accompanied by a deafening screech.

Jolean ducked down and clasped her hands over her ears. Her face contorted in pain as the sound continued to reverberate around the inside of her skull. She couldn't see. Her head was being split apart!

Then all was silent. Pure silence. Not even her heartbeat throbbed in her ears. Slowly, Jolean opened her eyes...and immediately closed them again. White. Blank. A vast, endless expanse of white is what had greeted her. Greeted; no, that's not right. It mocked her. Though no sound trickled its way into her ears, she could feel it in her mind, chanting, begging, "Open your eyes again! Look at me."

The girl stayed still.

"Look at me!"

Motionless.

"Please?"

"Smiley?" she finally whispered. Even herself, she could not hear.

Her eyes opened. A void of darkness met her gaze. Jolean stumbled backwards, surely uttering a sob, but she honestly couldn't tell.

The void sparked at the edges; a large, circular, black hole that looked as if someone had spilled ink over a drawing. No light refracted off of it, no warmth emanated from it. It was cold and empty and... nothing. She could not tear her eyes away from it. Jolean tried, strenuously, to turn her head—to get some sense of where she was—but it was hopeless. Her feet were rooted to the ground.

Slumping over, the girl fell to her knees. The void was above her now. All she had to do was step into it. The darkness was welcoming; the silence, deafening. Why not step into it? The whirlpool and the trapdoor had led to a fun adventure, why not the void too?

"I've come this far." She breathed, toneless.

"And you must go further, still."

That, Jolean could hear.

Her head snapped to the right. A boy stood next to her, a few inches taller, had she been standing. His halo of hair whipped around his face, a pink mane which seemed to glow in lieu of the void.

"Smiley?" Jolean asked, once again. She forced herself to stand, darting her eyes back and forth between the void and the child. "Are you-"

"The portal has opened, again." The boy spoke musically, his voice seemed to echo around her body, finding a home in her brain. She wanted to wallow in it, have it lull her to sleep at night. It was blasphemy to have such a heavenly voice allowed anywhere other than within her earshot.

Taking a step forward, the boy approached the

black void. Soon, his back was to her. He stood inches from emptiness; it was so dark that his color seemed to be siphoned from him, leaving a dingy, desaturated halo around his body.

"Touch me!" A voice screamed in Jolean's head so loudly that her ears started ringing.

When she came to her senses, the boy's hand was reaching out towards the blackness.

"No!" Jolean bolted towards him. "Don't touch it!"

"Part of my design..." he whispered as if in a trance.

"Smiley!" Her hand gripped his shoulder.

He trained his eyes on hers, dark as the void itself. His, she could see her reflection in them; they were even darker than her own.

"Your pupils..."

"Jolean." He extended his hand out to her. "Are you okay?"

She took his hand without hesitation—like some unknown force had possessed her. As soon as their skin brushed together, she knew.

"It's you."

The boy nodded, solemnly.

"Hello, Jolean. It's time you knew the truth."

Special Note: Hello again, friends! If you've made it all the way back for Chapter Eight, then you're certainly one of my most dedicated readers. If you couldn't tell, the story is starting to heat up as we wind down towards the conclusion for this year. Some of you may feel like you're missing a piece of the story if you're trying to continue from the February issue (hint: go to www.hhsspartana.com to read Chapter Seven, exclusively online). Remember that the story jumps from the print edition of the Spartana to online exclusive chapters, so keep checking the website to stay up-to-date with Jolean and Smiley. Plus, there's other great stories on the website too, or so I'm told. If you have any fun theroies, thoughts, commentary, critiques, just send me an email at katelyn.styborski@students.sacs.k12.in.us. I'll be looking forward to seeing your reactions. Thanks!

THE SPARTANA

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The ABCs of LGBTQ+

written and designed by
LUKE GAYER

Ever growing, Homestead is an incredibly diverse community which includes the LGBTQ+ community. According to the 2020 United States Census, about eight percent of Americans identify as LGBTQ+. Not to mention that one in six Gen Z adults identify as LGBTQ+ according to a 2021 Gallup poll. However, many students are confused or have been misinformed about this community. In the hope of providing a bit of proper education, I've decided to explain the most common terms thrown around and will hopefully dispel any misconceptions. Additionally, I bring an insightful perspective since I'm a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and my older brother identifies as gay and is happily married to his husband.

To begin with, lesbians are women who are attracted to women. The term "lesbian" actually comes from the Greek island of Lesbos where Sappho, a famous ancient Greek poet and likely lesbian, lived. Lesbians have been around for as long as humanity has. In general, homosexuality has even been seen in the animal kingdom, so it isn't an unnatural thing like some may believe. It also isn't a recent development. The earliest mention of lesbians comes from the Code of Hammurabi, which dates all the way back to 1700 BCE. The code mentioned "salzikrum," which were women who were allowed to marry other women. Historically, many lesbians have had to enter into "beard marriages" to conceal their true sexual orientation and fit into society while still living as their real selves. Beard marriages were marriages that existed to cover for one partner's homosexuality. Famous lesbians include Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell and Jodie Foster.

"I am who I am and my orientation doesn't change that. I live my life just like anyone else." - Anonymous

"No men." - Anonymous

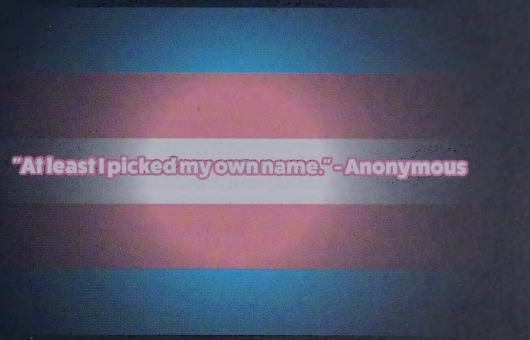
"I am open about my sexuality because it's a part of who I am, but I don't let it define me; there's so much more to me than just being gay." - Anonymous

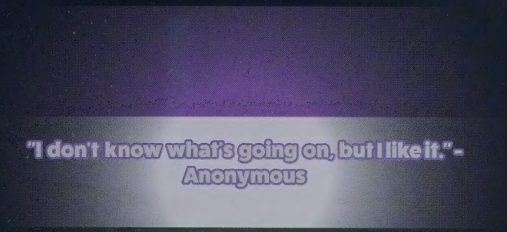
Next, gays are men who are attracted to men. Just like lesbians and practically every other identity, gays have been around for the entire history of humanity. The first recorded gay couple was Khnumhotep and Niankhkhnum, an Egyptian couple from 2400 BCE. I have a bit more to say on this since my older brother is gay, and I don't think that makes him any different. Nor should anyone be seen differently because of their sexuality. Some notable gay men throughout history consist of Roman Emperor Hadrian, Alan Turing and Oscar Wilde.

Bisexuals are people who are attracted to both men and women. Based on most polls, bisexuals account for the majority of the LGBTQ+ community. Bisexuals often experience discrimination from monosexuals, those attracted to one gender. Just like homosexuality, bisexuality has been seen all across human history and in the animal kingdom. If you look at many ancient societies, bisexuality was widespread and usually not seen as a big deal. Some famous bisexuals from across history include Sir Alec Guinness, Eleanor Roosevelt and even Walt Whitman.

"It's a lot of responbility to represent an entire group of people: I am the turtle coordinator." - Anonymous

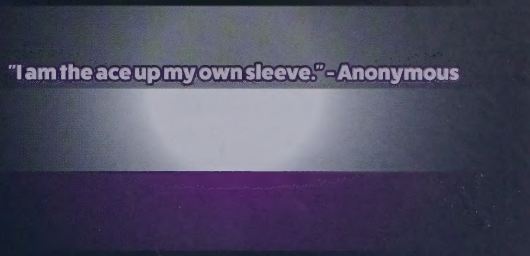
Transgender individuals are people who don't align with the sex they were identified as at birth. Some choose to medically transition to the sex they identify with while others don't. Many experience gender dysphoria, a feeling of distress that their gender and biological sex don't align, which can range in intensity. However, most transgender people can experience gender euphoria when they do transition. Unfortunately, they have extremely limited protection in Indiana and must go through an outdated and somewhat invasive process to even legally change their name. Moreover, many also face discrimination in school, the workplace, with their families and much more. These are people who only want to be happy with themselves and be able to express who they actually are on the inside. A few famous transgender people are Elliot Page, Chaz Bono and Laverne Cox.





Queer doesn't refer to a specific sexual orientation. Instead, it is an umbrella term for people who don't identify as heterosexual or cisgender, which means identifying with the gender you were assigned at birth. Queer was originally used as a slur against homosexuals, but members of the LGBTQ+ community have since reclaimed it. Similar to the asexual spectrum, not everyone fits neatly inside certain boxes. Because of this, it is important to have an umbrella identity like queer to encompass not being heterosexual or cisgender.

Asexuality is a sexual orientation where someone experiences little to no sexual attraction. Surprise, surprise, I can actually speak about this one heavily since I identify as an asexual panromantic. The important thing to note with both asexuality and aromanticism is that there is a distinction between romantic and sexual attraction. Additionally, asexuality exists on a spectrum with many subgroups. Some people experience no sexual attraction (asexuality), while others experience some (gray-sexuality), and even some people have no sexual attraction until they have an extremely strong romantic bond with someone (demisexuality.) A few notable asexuals include H.P. Lovecraft, Nikola Tesla and even one famous fictional sponge, Spongebob Squarepants.



"I prefer the friend zone." - Anonymous

Aromanticism is similar to asexuality but is when someone experiences some to no romantic attraction. Like asexuality, it exists on a spectrum and splits attraction into romantic and sexual attraction. Some aromantics may experience little to no romantic attraction. While others identify as aromantic, they still experience sexual attraction. Aromantic people still can have meaningful deep relationships with people, but they simply don't have romantic relationships. I think it is important to talk about aromanticism and asexuality since both are often overlooked. Because aromanticism is talked about so little in Western society and media, I was unable to find any famous aromantics. Fortunately, there are a few examples of fictional aromantics such as Peridot from "Steven Universe" and Seiji Maki from "Bloom Into You."

Pansexuality is a sexual orientation where someone experiences attraction without regard to gender identity. Although similar to bisexuality, pansexuality ignores the gender binary as pansexuals are attracted to all people even if they don't identify as male or female. According to a 2016 Harris Poll, two percent of 18-year-olds to 34-year-olds identify as pansexual. While that may seem like a small number, bisexuality and pansexuality tend to blur lines as many people still don't know about pansexuality. Many also view pansexuality as more inclusive than bisexuality, but that is heavily debated within the LGBTQ+ community. Also, May 24th is the Pansexual & Panromantic Awareness Day. I also have some personal experience with this identity since I identify as panromantic. There's a reason I care only about people's personalities when it comes to romantic relationships. A couple of infamous pansexuals are Miley Cyrus, Bella Thorne and JoJo Siwa.

"I'm not very picky when it comes to dates." - Anonymous

"I won't abide by how you're supposed to sit in chairs." - Anonymous

"Why have gender when you can just not?" -Anonymous

Finally, non-binary is a gender identity falling outside of the gender binary, where people do not identify with being male or female. Many people assume that gender is extremely strict and set in stone, but many scientists have concluded that gender is a lot more fluid than people first assume. Many non-binary people go for an androgynous look, but there isn't "one" look for being non-binary. I'd also like to add that most non-binary people consider themselves transgender; however, not all of them decide to use hormones or undergo surgeries. Non-binary people vary widely and have been seen in most cultures. For example, many Native American societies had a third gender role, two-spirit. As a result of the increasing connectedness of the world, people can finally find the terminology to express themselves. A few non-binary individuals that you might've heard of include Demi Lovato and Rebecca Sugar.

All in all, the LGBTQ+ community is a welcoming community to all marginalized people. These people simply want to experience love—love that has unfortunately been rejected by family members, friends and others for just being themselves. Plus, not everyone figures themselves out when they're young. Some people may identify as one thing at one time while realizing later that that label doesn't fit them anymore. Everyone is always evolving and changing, so it isn't fair to react negatively if someone changes how they identify themselves. After all, if you were the same person your entire life, then you probably wouldn't be able to get anywhere in life. If you have any questions or want to meet with members of the LGBTQ+ community, then you can head on down to the Gay-Straight Alliance club located in Mr. Hill's room, room 210, which meets every Wednesday.

THE ENNEAGRAM

written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW & MELODY THRASHER

For decades, people have been using numerous systems to define their own personality. These include MBTI types, astrology signs, DiSC, the Enneagram and plenty of other ways to assign yourself a specific personality. Some people love these tests and find them entirely accurate while others question how reliable they are. The Enneagram, in our opinion, is the most accurate test by far.

The Enneagram has nine different personality types one could fall under. You could be a one, two, three, four and so on up until number nine. Each personality type has specific strengths, weaknesses and characteristics unique to its number. That is not to say that everyone falls into one specific category and doesn't waver. Everyone has what is called a "wing", which is an adjacent number that you may share traits of. The gritty details of this test are far too complicated to explain in a three page article, so for more information visit the Enneagram Institute online.

1 THE REFORMER

Ones, above all else, strive to make change. They're the "reformers" of the Enneagram because they often feel like they have a greater mission or calling that they must fulfill. They are driven by a strong moral compass and have a desire to be useful. That's not to say every One is an outspoken political activist; they just care deeply for the things they value. This personality, unfortunately, is commonly accompanied by a deep-seated need to be perfect and control all the disorder going on around them. They resist feeling their emotions out of a fear that they will lose control, which can lead to aggression and anger towards those around them.

A healthy One finds happiness in being helpful and making change in the world while also understanding that nobody is perfect. They practice self-discipline, but are patient and kind. An unhealthy One is unable to ignore even the tiniest imperfections and comes off as micromanaging and condescending. If you are a One, try to be more forgiving when it comes to yourself and other people. It's okay to make mistakes. Just get up and try again.

2 THE HELPER

Twos are arguably the most kind of the nine Enneagrams. They find joy in helping others and strive to be the most compassionate version of themselves. It's not that they want to devote their lives to being a stepping stool for others, but they have a passion for being generous and nurturing and highly value their relationships. That being said, some of this generosity can come from a feeling of wanting people to think they are helpful, rather than actually caring for someone. Twos need to be needed.

A healthy Two is aware of both their needs and the needs of others. They understand boundaries and have meaningful long-term relationships. An unhealthy Two is highly controlling of the people around them and do whatever they can to get people to love them. If you are a Two, remember that it is not your responsibility to fix everything and people will still care about you even if you take time to care for yourself.

3 THE ACHIEVER

Threes have a lot of talents in general and are able to contribute to their community. Their success is often inspiring and impressive as they strive to be the best version of themselves. It is important to them to have success in whichever way they deem fit: money, family, work, etc. However, sometimes this desire for success can lead to a loss of self, as they attempt to bend to fit everyone's expectations. In summary, Threes can have an obsessive need for validation, but are also determined and persistent individuals.

A healthy Three sets their goals and conquers challenges, but does not let this determine their self-worth. They find balance in their lives that allows them to work and rest in a healthy medium. An unhealthy Three is defensive of their failures and may exaggerate their accomplishments to preserve self-image while also looking down on others. If you are a Three, remember that one failure does not define who you are, and it is okay to take a break. It will not make you worth any less.

ENNEAGRAM INSTITUTE

TRUITY PERSONALITY TEST

4 THE INDIVIDUALIST

Fours feel as though they are different from others. Not necessarily different in a positive or negative way - just different. They do not find it difficult to distinguish their own faults, which can lead them to struggle with their self-image and personal expectations. Fours have a rare ability to discuss deeply personal things about themselves to those they trust. Despite this, they often feel like something is missing from their lives and cannot pin-point exactly what it is. They're considered the "romantics" of the Enneagram and want someone to come into their life and help them figure this so-called 'fault' out.

A healthy Four is not afraid of being inferior and has learned to live with everything they consider to be a personal fault. They are creative, honest and make meaningful relationships that lead to self-discovery. An unhealthy Four victimizes themselves to keep the relationships they have because they are ashamed of what they see in themselves. If you are a Four, try to remember that self-discovery and growth will only come when you stop criticizing yourself so harshly. Allow yourself to appreciate the little things.

5 THE INVESTIGATOR

Fives desire to be knowledgeable and independent. They want to contribute to the world in a significant way through their unique perspective and curiosity. They're often somewhat detached from others, as they highly value their time alone. Observant and thoughtful, Fives seek to have a deep understanding of the world and environment surrounding them. Their attention is typically drawn to the unknown, unusual and bizarre aspects of life. Whatever they're passionate about they will intensely focus on in order to satiate their craving for knowledge and understanding.

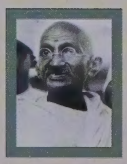
A healthy Five engages with others and sees themselves as part of the environment rather than separate from everyone and everything. They seek to make groundbreaking discoveries through their ability to view the world in a special way. An unhealthy Five doesn't allow anyone in, and is often defensive due to their want for security and privacy. If you are a Five, try to share more of who you are and your life with others, trusting that they won't misuse that information. Try to process your emotions in the moment, rather than bottling them up to save for later.

6 THE LOYALIST

Sixes are hard working, responsible and reliable. They seek to have security and support in their lives. They are productive, logical beings, and they organize their actions around what would be best for the common good. Sixes are clear-eyed judges of character, and can often foresee problems before others. This can possibly lead them to become highly anxious and pessimistic. Ultimately wanting support and reassurance from others in their relationships, they seek to make meaningful and lasting bonds. Honesty, loyalty and reliability are all important traits to this type.

A healthy Six is self affirming and trusting of themselves and others. Their self trust leads to positive thinking, leadership, and powerful self expression. An unhealthy Six will be untrusting of themselves and others. They will often project their insecurities onto others. If you are a Six, try to recognize the difference between legitimate fear and irrational fear. Try to develop confidence by trusting your inner self and accepting compliments without intense deflection or apprehension.

WHO'S YOUR TWIN?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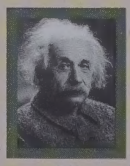
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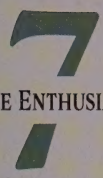
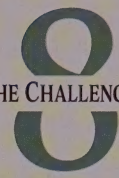
Images courtesy of biography.co



THE ENTHUSIAST

Sevens are very spontaneous, high-spirited and extroverted. They consistently seek out new and exciting experiences, and have a tendency to operate out of impulse. They're a deeply adventurous type, always seeking out ways to have fun. Sevens have a deep gratitude and appreciation for the good things in life. They want to maintain their freedom and often question if they are missing out on opportunities. Although practical, Sevens tend to be undisciplined and a bit scattered.

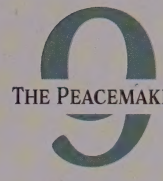
A healthy Seven is grounded and is able to accept life as it is, instead of what they desire it to be. They have embraced that pain and disappointment is inevitable, and that growing from this is better than suppressing their feelings. An unhealthy Seven often sees themselves and their environment as inadequate and will often take more risks than necessary. They will try to avoid their pain, seeking to find instant gratification — which can potentially lead to a harmful addiction. If you are a Seven, practice moderation and restraint. Give yourself the opportunity to feel negative emotions instead of running away from them.



THE CHALLENGER

Eights are resourceful, protective and self-confident. They seek to have importance, be self-reliant and prove their strengths. They are often very direct and honest in their communication, which can lead to them coming off as confrontational and intimidating. This type often feels like they must control their environment due to their fear of someone having power over them. Being indebted to someone in any way is something an Eight seeks to avoid at all costs. Through their innate ability to be independent, they are able to defy fears, guilt, and social norms. At their best Eights will use their strengths to improve others' lives and lift up those around them. Eights are great friends, leaders and they often have no issues standing up for the underdog.

Healthy Eights use their power to their advantage and in the right measure. They are able to embrace vulnerability, and realize that it is a sign of strength rather than weakness. An unhealthy Eight may be overly worried that they will be betrayed and very slow to trust others. They may seek revenge when wronged, and be power-hungry seeking to control those around them. If you are an Eight, realize that vulnerability is necessary in your journey of growth.



THE PEACEMAKER

Nines are peaceful, perceptive and trusting. Type Nines are often supportive and optimistic, and go along with what others want to avoid conflict. They resist disturbances in their environment and want to preserve things to keep them as they are. Due to their way of understanding multiple perspectives to try to keep the peace, they are often very non-judgemental people. Nines may often retreat into their inner thoughts and emotions rather than stay grounded in reality. Creative and optimistic, they are highly perceptive to understanding those around them and ways to resolve conflict. Although stubborn in certain instances, Nines are very self-actualized people and inspiring to be around.

A healthy Nine is flexible and inclusive. They make decisions based on their healthy priorities and are fulfilled in their life. Focused on the present, they are content with themselves and are able to form beneficial relationships. An unhealthy Nine may be overly dependent. They may dull or numb their emotions to maintain the illusion that all is well. If you believe you are a Nine, resist the urge to succumb to others' opinions over your own to prevent conflict. Be honest and open about how you feel.

THE RELIABILITY OF THE ENNEAGRAM

How accurate is the Enneagram anyways? I suppose that depends on the person. Some people believe the test to be scarily accurate and trust it to understand them. "I think it's more accurate because of all the questions and possible answers. Overall, I think it's a pretty good indicator of my personality," said Laura McWilliams (11). However, not everyone shares this optimistic sentiment. "I thought it was hard because the questions were just too broad and I feel like the understanding of the question is subjective," said Shiksha Goyal (11). The reality of it is that taking an online seventy question quiz is not going to be better at understanding you than you are. Sure, taking the Truity test is a nice indicator of what you might be, but at the end of the day it is better to really read into each type and decide for yourself what you are.

Once you have a real understanding of yourself, your fears, desires, passions and internal monologue, you can learn more about how you can grow and develop into the best version of yourself. It can help you better learn why you act in certain ways, and why you communicate in the way that you do. I find it helpful for discovering how my actions come off to other people. Personality tests are not necessarily meant to put you into a confined box, but more so to push you into a better understanding of who you are.

MOOD RINGS

written and designed by
GAIA SPLENDORE

Introduction

I'm gonna say it—humans are too messy. Nowadays we have far too many complex emotions and confusing mental states. I mean, take "bittersweet," representing both a bitter and sweet feeling. Honestly, just pick a lane and stick to it.

It's all simply too much, why does human emotion have to be so paradoxical and complex, why can't I just be "happy" or "sad" and call it a day?

Well, in the magical world of mood rings, that is the case! Not only does it streamline our emotions, but it also takes all the guesswork out of figuring out how you are feeling. Who needs a therapist to tell me how I feel when a band of quartz can do exactly that while looking snazzy?

A mood ring is a staple of my daily accessorizing, but tragedy struck when I lost my beloved in the middle of AP Environmental Science. That being said, if any kind samaritan finds a mood ring rolling around the halls of Homestead High or specifically in Mrs. Merkling's room, please let me know. I would like to say this incident has made me very sad, but how can I even tell!

But alas, back to the point. Allow me to explain the science behind them. The "stone" of the ring is really just hollow quartz or glass that encapsulates a band of thermotropic liquid crystals. The ring changes color based on your mood (or body temperature, if you're feeling unenthused) and the liquid crystals twist and change the color it reflects. So basically, it works off of body temperature.

"Oftentimes our body heat does reflect how we feel and can even affect it. So I think (mood rings) have some accuracy because they can pick up on your physical states, which can often reflect your mental state," said Madelynn Fallat (11).

Experiment

LOST MOOD RING!

please contact gaia.splendore@students.sacs.k12.in.us with any info

But just how reliable are these magical pieces of jewelry? Well, for a day I recorded how I felt both using a mood ring and just tracking it myself using my immense knowledge of my own mind. On Wednesday, February 9 I noted what the mood ring had to say from 7 am to 11 pm.

According to the ring, I started the day off with some fear, and I don't know if I would have used that word to describe it, but there definitely were worries about slipping on some ice so I can understand where it was coming from. Overall, my school day seemed to be very calm and normal, which I would agree with: it was indeed a calm and normal day.

Apparently, I felt loving at 11 am during Honors Trigonometry, so I'm not sure if it was losing accuracy or if I secretly have some secret passions about the unit circle that even I am not aware of.

I was a little nervous around 1 pm when I had my daily reflection about how I have no idea what I plan to do after high school aside from a very vague "college" plan. The mood ring did not pick up on this but maybe my body has gotten so used to it that it's become a part of my homeostasis. After school I was home for a bit before I had to rush to work where I was slightly late (as per usual), and even the mood ring picked up on my rushing-induced anxiety at 4 pm.

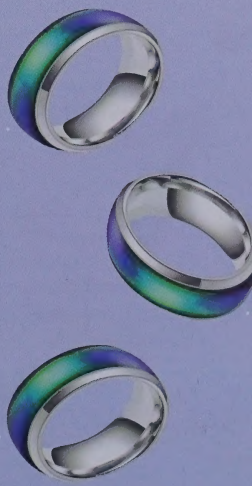
Similarly to school, work was very tame, which I would again say is accurate. It was overall a relaxed shift because all I really have to do as a host at a pizza place is fold pizza boxes and occasionally seat people. I was especially impressed when it picked up love at 6 pm because at 6 pm I was rolling silverware. And I love rolling silverware. The simple satisfaction of uniting a fork and knife in a freshly washed linen napkin truly inspires love within me.

I returned home, did some homework and unsurprisingly felt normal while doing so. Maybe it is my fault for picking such a predictable and calm day, but my ring really was accurate in reflecting a tranquil day.

Conclusion

Overall, I would say that the ring was accurate. Again, there were no strong emotions to pick up on and the ring was true to its dark blue and green hue. One day of accuracy could easily be a coincidence, but the idea that it's more than just that is so fun. So, are mood rings an accurate way to figure out our emotions? "I don't think it will give the answer flat out," said Dominic Uddowlah (12) "It's kind of like, a hint in a crossword... it will lead me to what I'm trying to find."

It's no secret that life is hard and confusing and some of the time we don't even know how we feel about it all, but why not say that a strip of liquid crystal is the answer to it all? It might not be entirely scientifically backed up, but that's not the only way to figure out our entire lives. With all the harsh and tragic aspects of life that come along with simply existing, sometimes the solution is to not take it all too seriously. So no, maybe a $6 Claire's ring does not hold the key to the universe. But you can't deny that it's fun to think that maybe it does.



Trends, Tiktok, and That Girl

written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE

Introduction

That girl: she is flawless, effortless, perfect. She has her life together. Deep down, we all aspire to be her. The idea of having your life together feels like an unattainable goal for most, but "that girl" manages to make it look easy.

The "that girl" trend saw its beginning in mid-2021 on Tiktok. Its goal was to encourage everyday wellness and productivity. Its followers were teenage girls who aspire to live a social media-worthy lifestyle. However, the trend has since raised some concerns. Since it's all about being productive, the trend lends itself to the idea of no "off days." In other words, it's not acceptable to have days when you don't feel like getting out of bed (this is wrong, it's okay to have off days). Additionally, the trend can be harmful to people who struggle with body image. It preaches healthy eating and exercising, which isn't always possible for everyone. Healthy and organic food is often more expensive and less accessible than unhealthy food, and not everyone has a place where they can exercise comfortably. It's important to recognize that everyone's version of this trend is going to look different.

Despite that, what if we did try to be her? What if we lived in her shoes for a week? For one week, I lived like "that girl." I had a list of things that I did everyday to be successful in this challenge. Is it really possible to be "that girl?"

Monday

I didn't start off the week well. I only got up two minutes before my alarm, and if I'm really trying to be "that girl," two minutes is completely unacceptable. I did, however, manage to pick out a decent outfit. The outfit did not keep me warm when I walked outside to my car after school, but at least I looked good. I had a handful of fruit on my way out the door, too, and I left my house only four minutes late. I was as productive as possible during the day. When I got home, I did all of the homework that I remembered. (I did realize later that night that I forgot to do some of it, but I did it on Tuesday morning instead.) After my homework, I sat on my phone until I had practice. Did I limit my screen time? Absolutely not. I had practice for four hours, so check exercising off of the list. I came home, ate some pizza, spent time on my phone and then went to bed at 10:45 pm. That's earlier than normal, so I think I redeemed myself. Overall, day one was a moderate success.

Tuesday

I was exhausted after Monday night, so I accidentally slept in until 6:50 am. For context, I leave my house at 7:00 am. So far, the day was not off to a good start. I got ready as quickly as possible. The morning ended up being an absolute catastrophe because I forgot to eat breakfast and didn't put on a nice outfit. When I got to school, I finished my homework from the night before. Multiple times during the school day, I felt like falling asleep, but I remembered that I have no off days. I am "that girl." I have to be productive all the time. After school, I did my homework right when I got home. I had multiple hours of practice after school too, and I sadly have no memory of what time I went to bed. It was probably later than when it should have been.

Wednesday

In my traditional fashion, I got up late again (but not as late as Tuesday). I dressed well, did my hair and made myself tea before leaving the house. This may be a controversial opinion, but I think that tea counts as breakfast. It doesn't matter though; I didn't end up drinking much of it because I forgot to. I left late again, but who's surprised? I tried to be productive during the school day as usual. My day followed my normal routine: get home, think about doing homework (but don't actually do it), go to practice, come home and sleep. I wasn't anymore successful than I had been all week.

Thursday

This day was pretty much like the rest. I got up late, left the house late and still somehow managed to get to school 20 minutes early. I was very productive during school. I had two tests. My productivity ended the moment I walked out of school, though. I got home and didn't get off my phone until 5:30 pm. From what I've

experienced so far, the hardest part of the trend isn't staying productive under pressure, but staying productive without it. If I was forced to be productive, I was. I had no problem doing the work I needed to do. But the moment I was tempted to be not productive, I gave into the temptation. This may just be because I am a terrible procrastinator. However, that's a good thing about the trend: it makes you realize any unhealthy habits that you may have. I had practice again, but I did my homework when I got home. While my day wasn't up to the trend's expectations, I felt a lot more successful than I had all week.

Friday

This was the last day of the challenge; I truly believed that Friday was my day. The morning started out like normal. However, things turned around when I got to school. I was busy all day long. I had tests, dissections and an assortment of other activities to do. Everything was going my way for once. It was truly a miracle. I think that what I did when I got home was the most impressive, though. From three until 5:45, I did only homework. I did French homework, math homework, history homework and a myriad of others. Never in my life have I sat down for that amount of time for homework. I did call a friend halfway through, but they kept encouraging me to do my homework (which I was extremely grateful for). One thing I forgot to mention during the week was my use of a journal and planner. This was already one of my habits, so I did not document it during the week. I still did it everyday. I had practice for a few hours, but when I got home, I did even more homework. I ate a good dinner but still went to bed a lot later than I should have. Overall, I am very happy with how the last day of the challenge went. It felt good to finally be productive.

My Thoughts

The "that girl" trend was an experience, to say the least. I do not have my life together, and I'm guessing that a lot of people feel the same way. As a high school student, it's hard to find a balance between having a social life, school and still being present in everyday life. It feels like one or the other most of the time. That was my first problem with this trend. There were so many things I wanted to do, like my homework, but other things felt more important, especially after a long day of school. The trend has a big emphasis on being aware of what's going on and how to balance everyday activities. I had moments when I felt balanced, but I was not perfect. To be honest, I was absolutely terrible at it. I had high expectations for myself, too, but my inner procrastinator clearly had other ideas. I would have to make a list of my priorities if I were going to try this trend again. I'm not upset about how I did, though. If anything, I learned more about myself than I would have during a normal week.

SIDE

written
CL

I cannot tell you what I want to do with my life. The future is foggy, and I am scared of what I cannot see. Still, friends, family and one-sided acquaintances have incessantly asked me what job I want, where I want to live and what college I am attending. The interrogation is only intensifying with time, and I am reminded of the Spanish Inquisition. Uncertainty has become heresy, and awkwardness its method of torture.

While I am certainly prone to melodrama, I do not think I am alone in finding such questions disheartening. A seemingly similar question, however, can invoke a completely different response. Rather than trying to investigate where the road ends, I inquire what detour a person wants to take.

Three Homestead students, as well as one beloved math teacher, have shared with me an ambitious activity or endeavor that they would like to accomplish in life. One of them, senior Noah Bonahoom, phrased it perfectly: "So, like a side quest?"

Our side quests are not necessarily the structure of our daily lives, but they are the experiences that enrich them. They fulfill us in the moment and long after, like a comforting photograph to keep in our wallets.

Edem Klukpui's (11) desired side quest involves contemplation and creativity. More precisely, he wants to journal.

"I recently picked it up from a friend, and he told me about the benefits of journaling. I bought a journal and just wrote how I was feeling, things I want to accomplish, lessons learned from books, etc. It gives me some sort of control in my life, especially in rough times when things feel out of place," Klukpui said.

Klukpui's urge to create and reflect is not uncommon. Arguably, it is innate. Journaling, painting, writing — any physical fruit of the mind — allows us to recognize our existence in this world.

Whereas Klukpui wants to explore internally via pen and paper, Amanda Householder (11) wants to explore the country by van.

"I imagine I would travel to almost every state, probably not staying in one place more than one night. I would definitely want to collect something from each place I go, whether that be just memories or more. Also, I would definitely want to get the same posed picture in every state just to remember the trip," Householder said.

Householder's expedition will probably include dubious motel rooms, some Cool Ranch Doritos, fatigue and

QUESTS

igned by
LIOTT

moments of stunning beauty.

Noah Bonahoom's (12) quest, on the other hand, will take him into the dangerous fields of the culinary arts — and his own backyard. Already a pizza boy at Oley's and an amateur chef at home, Bonahoom plans to monopolize the cooking process.

"I want to be able to grow an entire meal by myself. Like seed to fruit, egg to chicken, I want to create an entire meal in my backyard," Bonahoom said.

His grand dinner will extend into all food groups. Wheat will be the precursor to pasta, and chickens the precursor to... chicken. He is ambitious, and he knows it, too.

Regarding the hardest aspect of Bonahoom's pursuit, he said, "I want to buy a chicken, and raise a few generations of chickens. Some will be for farm fresh eggs. Others... gotta learn how to pluck, defeather and de-skin a chicken."

Perhaps a farm-to-table restaurant lies ahead in Bonahoom's future. Or, perhaps he will decide defeathering chickens is not for him. Either way, the side quest always brings its quester personal fulfillment. They are our heart's accomplishments.

Tisha Bowman-Ashby, known as Mrs. Bowman or best-teacher-Bowman by her students, followed her heart.

"What I wanted to do since I was little was save the animals. I was going to be a veterinarian and free the cows from my grandparents' dairy farm. My husband's and my house is somewhat of an animal sanctuary. We feed the wildlife and the chipmunks. My neighbors hate it," Bowman said.

Bowman's adventure, though it is a "side quest," is lifelong. Moreover, it can also take a new direction upon the next fork on its road.

"If I get to inherit that (dairy farm) land, I want to make an animal sanctuary. We wouldn't take in big animals like lions and whatnot. More like cats, bunnies, parrots that people can't take care of," Bowman said.

We all have dreams. If they all remain lofty goals, we will either lose ourselves in the sky or plummet to the dirt. Side quests are the dreams that we can realize—the ones that provide hope and meaning for us and everyone we share them with.

What's yours?

ART COURTESY OF CLAIRE ELLIOTT

LADY SPARTANS' SEASON RECAP

written and designed by
LUKE LAND

DISCLAIMER: At the time of publication, the girls' team has lost to Noblesville in the Regional semi-final. This is a recap of the regular season ONLY. No information is related to the state playoffs games that have been played.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE LENA STUDIOS

MAGGIE KEINSLEY (12) SHOOTING A JUMPSHOT AGAINST SNIDER

With the regular season having ended, it's only right to go over the past season the girls' basketball team just completed; a historic season at that. The Lady Spartans put on an absolute show this season, going 21-1, with their only loss being to Noblesville. They went undefeated in the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) play and outright won the conference.

"I feel as though this year's team has improved consistently throughout the season," said head coach Rod Parker. Parker thinks that the team chemistry and culture built at Homestead has allowed the Lady Spartans to reach their full potential.

He is proud of the girls for giving it their all this season, especially since "giving it your all" is what he preaches religiously day in and day out. The girls' effort has allowed them to play at a high level against great competition.

A key success to their wins this season was Ayanna Patterson (12), the 6'3" center committed to the highly-ranked University of Connecticut. Parker said that "it has been very rewarding to watch Patterson grow as a player and person over the past four years. Although Patterson is a top player in the nation, Parker states that Patterson is treated "no different than any other player in our program".

Parker was asked the tough question of who is better: the 2016-17 state championship winning team, or this year's team. Parker said that they're not comparable. They both had very different strengths and weaknesses. He added that they have two common themes: the chemistry and willingness of players to play their roles that allowed them to be successful.

Maggie Keinsley (12) is proud of the team's accomplishments from this season, from breaking the school's win-streak record, to being ranked number one in the state and a top-25 team in the nation. Keinsley feels that she played well as an individual because she was surrounded by a great team.

The lessons that Keinsley learned this year have been

 BACKGROUND COURTESY OF jibennett.com

important. She learned to value every possession, and that the little things will help them win games. She has also learned that team chemistry is essential to success. . "Our team is one big friend group, and that helps us on the court," said Keinsley.

Keinsley's biggest personal victory this year was committing to play basketball at the next level at Saginaw Valley State, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) school. She couldn't be more ecstatic about it either, saying that it's been a dream of hers ever since she was a little girl.

When asked what it was like playing her final game at Homestead, it made her tear up. She views this group of girls as her sisters, so leaving is going to be a tough thing for her. "We have hopefully a long postseason run, so my time isn't fully over yet, but I do not know what I will do when it is," Keinsley said.

Finally, when asked who she'd like to thank. Keinsley said her family and extended family, her coaches at Homestead, her Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) coaches, and Vernard Hollins for helping her to make her who she is today.

"It's bittersweet, I've played with most of these girls in my grade since 2nd grade so that's definitely going to be sad," Ali Stephens (11) said about playing her second-to-last season. Although she is sad about having only one full season ahead of her, Stephens is excited for her next four years at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Stephens couldn't be happier about where she is at this season. Even though she didn't set many personal goals, she is ready to accomplish the goals she set her freshman year: score 1,000 career points; make the most threes in one game; and to make the most threes in a career.

Stephens had struggles early on in the year; her shot wasn't falling. But she adapted. "My shot will come, I just have to focus on getting those extra rebounds, making good passes and playing good defense," Stephens said.

For next season, Stephens just wants to go out there and win games. She wants to win it all: the SAC and state, but she also wants to go out there and enjoy her final year as a Spartan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE LENA STUDIOS

EMMA RUEST (10) ALI STEPHENS (11) AND MAGGIE KEINSLEY (12) DURING PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

AYANNA PATTERSON (12) JUMPING DURING TIP-OFF

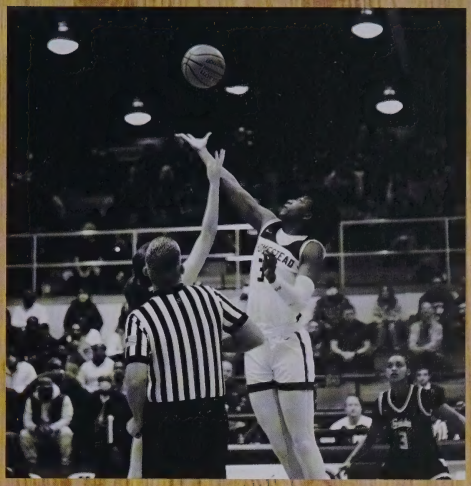


PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE LENA STUDIOS

The underclassmen are looking bright at Homestead. Emma Ruest (10) and Claire Landrigan (10) have promising futures.

Ruest is hoping next year to become a leader for the incoming girls. She wants to be a mentor and provide help when needed. She is also excited about next season because of all of the returning girls.

As for this season, Ruest has played very well with her given opportunities. She said she's improved a lot since last season. Ruest is extremely proud of how she played against South Bend Washington, which was the number three team in the state at the time. She had to overcome her jumpshot not falling this year, but she spent a lot of time trying to correct it.

For Landrigan, she's proud of how she played with the limited time given. Her biggest victory this season was getting past her nerves and being able to play basketball on the big stage. She feels that everyone being close together allows the team to play better.

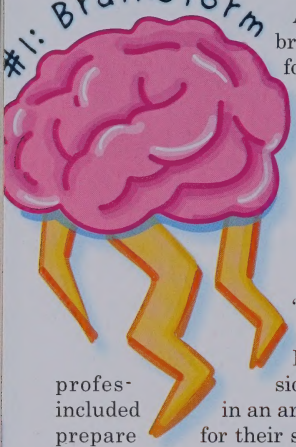
For next season, Landrigan wants to be a bigger asset for the team. She feels that there will be serious ground to make up for the loss of two great seniors, but comradery will be there and it will be a fun experience for them. Landrigan hopes that she can play the sixth man role next season, which will allow her to be a bigger part of the team and get more playing time.

Here at Homestead, we have had such a great program, and this year is no different. This is a historic season for the Lady Spartans. From being the best in the state to breaking school records, this team is special. I cannot wait to see what they do this postseason.

How the Sp

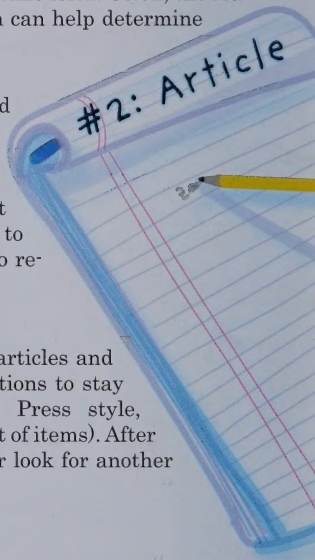
From Pub Room

A knock on the door. Moments later, a glossy pile of magazines floats into the room, bringing with it the heady scent of ink. Whether placed on a discreet corner desk or in the center of the room, they beckon you to open them. If you are reading this, congratulations. You have answered that call. From its creation in the secluded publications room (room 622, for those feeling adventurous) to its sometimes alarmingly rapid journey to the recycling bin, the *Spartana* is occasionally read. The appearance of this monthly publication may seem infrequent, but its arrival is a sure sign of a new month. Behind its glossy exterior is the lengthy, weeks-long process that goes into its making.

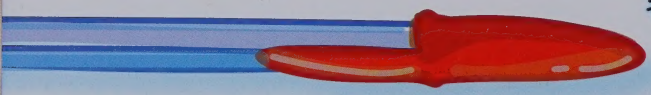


A brainstorming session—filled with story ideas centered around seasonal events and celebrations—starts off every issue. School activities and student accomplishments are also a focus for articles. Many staff members find story inspiration from their everyday lives, choosing to cover topics ranging from mood rings to YA tropes. Staffers can collaborate on articles as well. With the editor-in-chief and junior editors taking the lead, all staff members contribute and discuss ideas.

It is during this time when the month's issue first begins to take form. Often, the feature story and the theme of the issue become apparent, which can help determine the design of the cover and table of contents later on.



There are four article categories: "Life," "News," "Feature" and "Opinion." Occasionally, a seasonal category is added to the list, such as with the "Halloween" tag in this year's October issue. For most of these, writers interview three students, teachers or profes- sionals for their article. Writers usually choose interviewees not included in an article prior in the year. In addition, staff members must research to prepare for their story. This process involves anything from historical research to watch- ing children's television shows.



#3: Edits

The editors review all articles and provide the writers suggestions to stay in journalistic Associated Press style, which excludes the contentious Oxford comma (used before the "and," "or" or "nor" in a list of items). After feedback, writers make simple grammatical adjustments, strengthen their argument or look for another interview to improve their article.

#4: Spread Design

Staffers make the magazine-format layout of their article in Adobe program InDesign, a publishing software. Designers have creative liberty in making their spread specific to their article. Elements such as color scheme, title font, background and the occasional goat graphic must be taken into account. The editors encourage staff members to take their own photographs and make their own graphics.

This process is much different from *Spartana*'s beginnings, when it took the format of a printed, black-and-white newspaper. Junior editor Ganga Subramanian (11) noted that "a lot of people join Newspaper because they really want to write but don't realize there is a design aspect to it." However, the visual aspect of the publication is just as crucial as the writing. Why do you choose to read some articles and not others?

#5: Edits

In their second round of edits, the editors provide feedback on the spread designs of each article, noting details such as the alignment of the tags ("Life," "News," "Feature" and "Opinion") and forgotten citations of photo credits. It is a thrilling time. The *Spartana* staff stays after for a work night to finalize their spread before sending it in to Fort Wayne Printing Graphics Manager Mary Carney for the proof.

ana is Made: to Printing Press

written and designed by MADELINE PHUONG

#6: Proof and More Edits

At 909 Production Road, *Spartana* comes to life as an Epson Stylus Pro9900 color proof. The proof, much like the magazines, is run as a sheet wide spread of eight pages. The pages are lined up and cut apart on an industrial light table. On these sheets, a line of pure cyan, magenta, yellow and black (CMYK) runs down the middle to measure and ensure the correct coloring. Once complete, Carney delivers the finished proof to Homestead High School, where the editors take it back to the publications room for a final round of edits.

The publication staff gets a firsthand look at what will turn into the coming month's issue of *Spartana*. A sense of excitement and the smell of soy-based ink—which is both environmentally-friendly and fitting for a northeast Indiana printing company—fill the air.

"I really do like the ink of the proof and how it smells, in the same way that I like chlorine and gasoline," Subramanian said.

#7: Printing

After receiving the finished spreads, those at Fort Wayne Printing ready materials for the Heidelberg 40"SM102-4 press. A plate processor, maker and cleanout unit laser burn the images onto and prepare metal plates for the printing process. Every sheet wide spread uses four metal plates, one for each CMYK ink color. This issue used 20 metal plates. These plates are loaded into the press—with four units for the four CMYK colors—along with paper and ink. Having run through the Heidelberg, the sheets dry before being cut, folded and bound in Omega 2 Fold/Stitch/Trim and cutter machines. Finally, the magazines are packaged and shipped out.

A staff of less than 15 oversees this whole process at Fort Wayne Printing, all the while completing other printing jobs that can use up to a couple hundred thousand sheets of paper daily. Once the job is done, the company recycles the metal plates, paper and ink. Carney estimates that one issue of *Spartana* takes about eight to ten hours to produce, from proof to press.

#8: Distribution

On the long-awaited day of distribution, staffers transfer the cart of packaged issues—weighing tens of pounds and costing thousands of dollars—from the transportation area to the publications room. There, the staff members split up to deliver the month's issue of *Spartana* by area of the school, using 5th period rosters to determine class size. They use carts, rolling chairs or any other wheeled contraption to make deliveries. It is on this day that staffers hand *Spartana*s out to faces of delight and indifference alike. Issues are also available in the front of the cafeteria, which the 99 followers of the *Spartana* Instagram account (@spartana_news) are notified of.

Of the publication's reception, editor-in-chief Claire Elliott (12) said, "In a way, we are often scorned by the student body. I myself used to be one of those scorners, if that is a word, but that also makes us more of a community, I think. We are all in here and have fun and have our creative outlet and eat baked goods. To me, that is a sort of bliss."

#9: Website Publication

Following printing and distribution, the staff members publish their stories on the *Spartana* website (www.hhsspartana.com), supervised by Website Manager Thomas Hill (11). With this last step, each month's issue is digitally immortalized.

"We put in a lot of effort to the *Spartana* website to make it user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing, yet we see a disturbing lack of student engagement on the website to support our hard work," Hill said.

#10: Begin the process again!

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF MADELINE PHUONG

Beginning

written and designed by

ALESSIA PASSONI

It's that time of year! Signs of life reappear. Colorful, sweet smelling flowers provide us with serotonin. From snapdragons to daffodils, there are so many varieties of flowers. What type of flower person are you? Are you crazy about daffodils or are you more on the subtle side and enjoy some beautiful pansies? Maybe you're like me, and just struggle to keep them alive. Maybe you don't even know what flowers are blooming in spring and in what conditions they need to live in. Flowers are truly a way to happiness. Here are some of the many flowers blooming this spring.

"Some of my favorites, though, are trillium and they blossom typically from April into May" -Mrs. Merkling, AP Environmental Science.

Trilliums:

Trilliums represent purity and bloom a beautiful white. They bloom towards the end of spring. Trilliums prefer the shade as they cannot thrive in intense heat or the sun. Patience is key with this flower as the seed takes a while to mature.

Pansies:

Beautiful pansies shower the grass of many individuals. Pansies come in a variety of colors, from bumblebee yellow to lavender purple. They start blooming around early April and continue on until May. They can handle snow well despite the heat. However, they need at least six hours of sun a day to survive. But because they don't thrive in hot weather, they die before summer comes along.

Daffodils:

Daffodils in fact represent rebirth and new beginnings. These flowers beginblooming from February to early May. They radiantly burst out of the ground and are perennials. Luckily, rodents stay far away from them; your garden is safe! Daffodils love the sun, too, and thrive in full sun exposure. Unlike tulips, you CANNOT eat them. They carry poisonous toxins.

To Bloom

Orchids:

Junior Azalea Orsini (9) knows a lots about orchids and their lifestyle:

"When it comes to orchids and their life cycles, most orchid owners end up thinking their plant has died when the flowers fall. In reality, orchids just don't keep their flowers all that long. A majority of the year is spent saving up energy to bloom again; blooming is an extremely energy-consuming task. Orchids bloom at very distinct conditions in temperature and watering and typically bloom in the spring, though summer and fall-blooming isn't unheard of".

Tulips:

Did you know tulips signify a perfect and deep love? This classic flower comes in a variety of colors from crimson red to blush pink. These beauties love the sun and need full exposure to survive. They bloom from around March to April, but if the weather is cool, they sadly only last two weeks at most. Fun fact: tulips are edible.

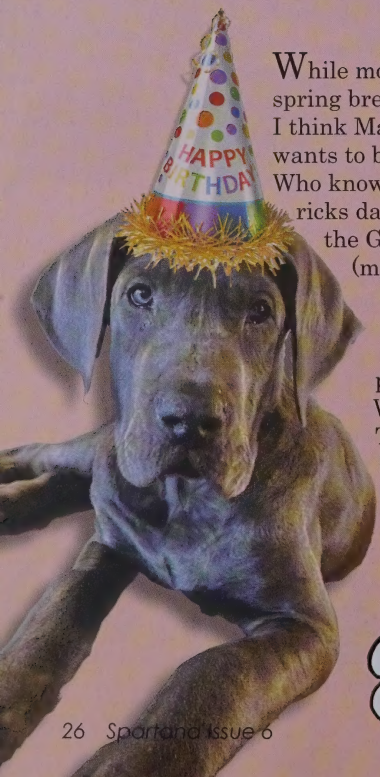
Irises:

Tall irises grace the gardens from early to mid-May. They come back each year in a range of colors. They are great with full sun exposure and should be planted no deeper than 3 inches in the ground.

Some of you may ask where can I buy these beautiful flowers? Is there a place I can visit? Indeed there is! Foster Park has one of the most beautiful flower selections possible. Varying from tulips to daffodils they have flowers galore. Another fantastic place to observe some floral fun is the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory. Lushes gardens, cascading waterfalls, and blooming orchids shower this reserve. Don't miss out on all the flowers as springtime is just around the corner!

top 10 DAYS IN MARCH

written and designed by
KAIYA CRONKHITE



While most people just want to hurry through March so they can finally reach spring break, there is many things to appreciate in this "filler" month. Personally, I think March is one of those months that has a hard time deciding what season it wants to be, especially for us in Indiana. Is it winter? Is it the begining of spring? Who knows. However, there are many things to enjoy during March besides St. Patricks day and the ocasionally decent weather. Featured on the left is Ami (Ah-mi) the Great Dane puppy, wearing a birthday party hat to celebrate March 9th (my birthday). Because it's not a national or international holiday though, it of course did not make the list. A few other honorable mentions that did not make the list as well are World Teen Mental Health Awareness Day, National Pound Cake Day, and of course the First Day of Spring. An important observance during this month that was not mentioned is National Women's History Month, which is celebrated the entire month of March. To read more about Women's History Month visit hhsspartana.com and look for our past stories. In celebration of National Craft Month as well, enjoy this small coloring section below.

1 Something on a Stick Day

By far the best and strangest on the list, everything on a stick day takes the cake. Call it primal instinct or just creative inspiration from ICarly's "T-Bo", but people seem to have a strange obsession with eating everything off sticks. You can celebrate this day by making your own unique creations on a stick. Some ideas include donuts, assorted fruits or even a variety of cheeses. Enjoy this day on March 28.

2 Respect your Cat Day

It's just as it sounds, a day to respect your feline friends. Yes, we all know cats can be a bit spiteful and occasionally strike a nerve when they intentionally push things off of tables. Maybe if we take at least one day to look for their best qualities, they might reciprocate the effort. Mark your calenders for March 28th to celebrate this day.

3 National Puppy Day

You can't resist them. Puppies may be the cutest, most loveable animals there are, and here's a day to treat them as they deserve- like a little angel. Go out and take your pup for a nice long walk or spoil them with their favorite treats. Maybe even just give them some extra love throughout the day. This day is celebrated on March 23rd.

4 World Water Day

As Americans, we often take clean drinking water for granted. We turn the faucet on and crystal clear water comes out. But it's not like that everywhere. In many countries, and even in some parts of the U.S., people don't always have access to clean water, which led to the creation of World Water day. The purpose of the day is to spread awareness about these problems, so we can work towards a solution together. This day is on March 22nd.

5 Plant a Flower Day

A perfect day to give back to our beautiful earth, and make it even more beautiful. For all of you out there who can't keep plants alive, maybe try a succulent or just water the grass. Schedule for watering for March 12th.

6 Get Over it Day

A day to reflect on whatever has been taking a mental toll on you. Just remember, things happen, but it's up to you what to make of it. Ana Trajcevski (10) said "I struggle with anxiety sometimes and just taking a day to decompress and reset at the end of each week really helps me to relax and get the weight of the week off my shoulders". This day is celebrated on March 9th but should be celebrated year long.

7 Day of Forests

On March 21, 2012, the United Nations declared a national forests day to raise awareness for the importance of all forests. The goal is to encourage communities to organize campaigns benefitting trees such as planting saplings, doing research on how important our forests are or educating others. According to the United Nations, spending time with trees helps boost our immune system, lower blood pressure, and it promotes relaxation. This day is on March 21st.

8 Day of Awesomeness

An international day to celebrate everything awesome about YOU! This day creates a great opportunity to let go of any insecurities and give yourself the love you deserve. One way to celebrate this day is by taking a little "me time." Emily Collins (10) said that one way she feels better about herself is by "getting ready to go out places because taking care of myself makes me feel good." Don't forget! This day is on March 10th.

9 National Barbie Day

While highschoolers might be a bit outgrown for Barbie, it's never too late to celebrate national Barbie day. Our 11.5-inch friend teaches young kids that they can accomplish anything in life, no matter who they are. Also, fun fact: when scaled to life size, the classic Barbie is 5 feet 9 inches. Way to represent the tall girls, Barbie! Kaitlyn Fry (9) touched everyones childhood memories when she stated that to her "Sometimes playing with Barbies felt like escaping from this reality and being in a whole new world. I could give them the life I didn't have".

10 K9 Veterens Day

A day to appreciate all our decorated dogs and those who have served our country. At Homestead, we have our own service dogs, so if you see them, give them some love. Make sure you "bark" your calenders for March 13th.

OUR FONDNESS FOR FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

written and designed by
KATELYN STYBORSKI

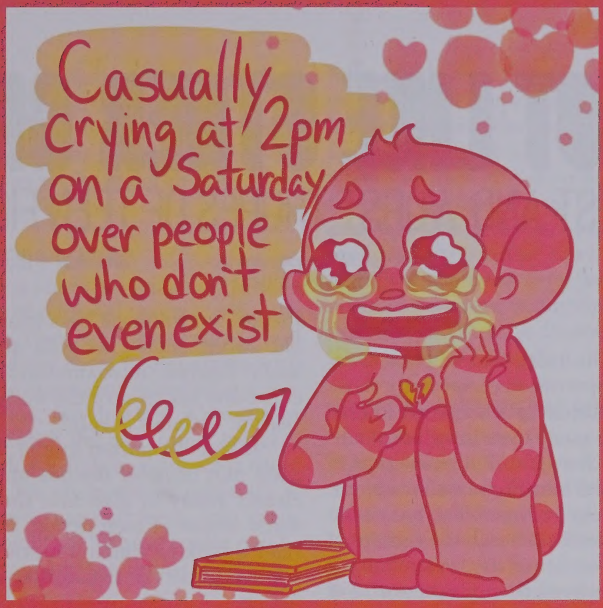
There's a strange phenomenon relating to literature, where people like you and me are becoming emotionally attached to fictional characters. Of course, this isn't surprising. Surely, we've all had our moments where we've realized that we may feel a little too strongly about a character.

However, when you actually think about the logistics of it, it's quite odd. We real, living, breathing, flesh-and-blood humans somehow find ourselves obsessing over people who truly are nothing more than words on paper. However, the black ink that makes up these characters' existence somehow encapsulates their entire personality.

"I think it's natural for us to become attached to fictional characters. Just think how many of us had crushes on cartoons when we were kids. I mean, I used to think Pig from SuperWhy was hot when I was 7. But that doesn't mean I want my friends to know that."

-ANONYMOUS

ILLUSTRATIONS DONE BY KATELYN STYBORSKI



We often use fiction as a way to escape reality, yet the characters portrayed within fiction are quite realistic. This realism is what makes fictional characters so relatable.

Keke Shearer (11) explains that, "I think we get attached to (characters) through their character development; we see how they can thrive and develop through (their) trauma, and we see that we can do the same thing."

It's much more likely for us to see ourselves in a deadbeat dad just trying to live up to his daughter's expectations than a cold, unfeeling warlord with no motivation other than the fact that the story simply needed a villain. We relate to and root for characters that remind us of ourselves. This is not to say that we won't or can't relate to a seemingly heartless character such as Pa from "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". It just means that people are more likely to see themselves in a character with realistic traits. (Though, I'd argue that if you find yourself relating to Heathcliff from "Wuthering Heights", there may be a problem there.)

From the recently coined phrase of "comfort characters" to fictional characters that we seem to crush on, our society has developed a reliance on literary figures. Luna Thomas (11) defines comfort characters as "a character that just makes you feel safer or happier when you might be feeling anxious or upset."

Whether that's seeing them, reading about them, talking about them, or just thinking about that character, we're given a of calm when we are reminded of a person we care about—even if that person doesn't really exist.

For example, a couple of my comfort characters from literature happen to be Ishmael and Queequeg from "Moby-Dick". I doodle them in the margins of my paper when I'm stressed, and seeing them or reading about them helps cheer me up when I feel down. Don't worry; I'm just as guilty as you are when it comes to obsessing over fictional characters. Have you heard my rants about *Moby-Dick*? I bought an entire biography on Melville after reading it!

Another word that's been rising in popularity has been the notion of "kinning" characters. Luna also provides a lovely definition of "kinning" for us. She says, "A kin is just a character that you really relate to, normally because you share a lot of similar personality traits."

Some find it shameful to relate to fictional characters, but in my opinion, you can't get any worse than me kinning Holden Caulfield, Jane Eyre and Ishmael all at the same time. So, don't feel bad for relating to fictional characters. (Unless it's Heathcliff. He can stay in the fictional world.)

There's nothing wrong with caring about fictional characters. We're supposed to learn from them and use their actions as a basis for our own—whether we choose to mirror them or do the opposite.

Literature allows us to learn about the world around us from different perspectives. When we find ourselves relating to or looking up to fictional characters, we gain access to their worldview, and in turn, our own worldview alters slightly to match theirs.

The next time you find yourself relating to or becoming emotionally affected by a fictional character, ask yourself why. You may learn something about yourself.

"I'M NOT LIKE OTHER GIRLS!"

THE BEST AND WORST TROPES OF TEEN FICTION

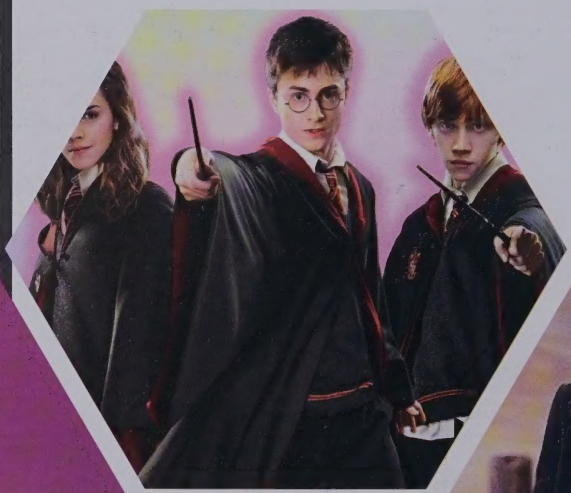
written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

WHAT'S A TROPE?

"I'm not like other girls." The quote that will live in infamy in the minds of entire generations, especially those that have encountered the cultural phenomenon known as Twilight. But why does this quote have intuitive meaning? How do we have a collective definition of the type of person that would say this? And why do we either admire or despise this quote, with no in between? The answer to these fundamental literary questions lies in the concept of tropes. While many have never heard the term "tropes," everyone has certainly encountered them in the world of teen fiction, whether on the page or on the screen.

Picture this (and take a deep breath): A teen girl embarks on a harrowing journey with her other outsider, token diversity friends who act as a surrogate family to overthrow a dystopian government ruled by an inexplicably evil dictator meanwhile unlocking her previously unknown "chosen one" magic powers and coping with the traumatic death of her mother and absence of her father, not to mention the entangling love triangle between her flirtatious childhood best friend and one thousand-year-old sworn enemy, as well asdealing with incompetent adult figures, miscommunication and pity-parties because she has to save the world with time travel for some reason. *exhales deeply*

If you recognized any of the tropes (AKA commonly used plot devices, themes and archetypes), then you're clearly ready to dive into this analysis of the best and worst tropes of teen fiction. But be warned: you'll never read a book or watch a movie the same way again after you recognize the tropes that drive much of popular teen fiction.



THE BEST OF THE BEST...:

"THE CHOSEN ONE" & "MAGIC POWERS"

Everyone loves a good "chosen one" story, which is when a regular person (just like you and me) discovers that they have magical powers and have to save the world. There's typically some sort of prophecy involved as well, adding to the mythos of the "chosen one" narrative. Katelyn Styborski (11) says, "I'm a sucker for emotionally-tense action scenes and teenagers shooting magic blasts at narcissistic old men. I also love the idea of magic being a part of society." These tropes are found in the most iconic works of teen fiction like the quintessential *Harry Potter* book series and cult classic movie *The NeverEnding Story*.

"DYSTOPIAN REBELLION" & "TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT"

Another one of the most popular tropes is the dystopian rebellion against a tyrannical government. Everyone wants to identify with the hero that takes down the wicked ruler who has subjugated society. Popularized with the release of *The Hunger Games*, the dystopian genre took over teen fiction in an instant,

edging out the millennial-era vampire obsession. Makayla Henline (11) finds this trope "engaging and interesting" because it "really makes you think about the society we currently live in." These tropes can be found in the ever-fantastic *Hunger Games* series and *The Fifth Wave* movie.

"PARENTAL TRAUMA" & "DEAD PARENTS/MENTORS"

A classic way to launch a character's journey in teen fiction is through some sort of parental trauma, often the death of a parent or mentor. There's no better way to pull on people's heartstrings and get them to empathize with a character than having the character experience a moment of grief or trauma. Plus, the death of a mentor or parental trauma tends to launch the hero into a spiral of righteous vengeance and adds a little spice to what could become an overdone trope. It's often even a necessity to make the protagonists interesting and leads into many other tropes like "The Chosen One." These tropes can be found in the *Star Wars* movies and the *Series of Unfortunate Events* book series.

"LOVE TRIANGLES" & "FAKE DATING"

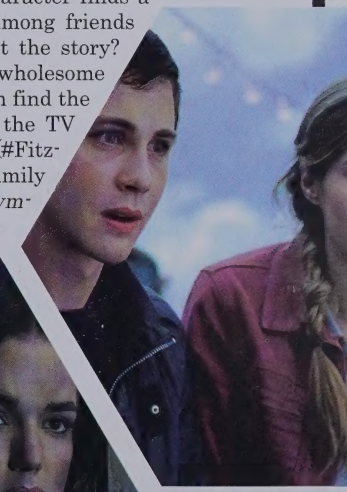
The love triangle is possibly as old as time itself and has been used both effectively and horrendously. However, it's usually done well enough to make it on the "best" side of this article. The fake dating trope is a more recent addition to teen fiction but can be just as well-used to spice up the romance scene and avoid the classic "love at first sight" trope (which is on the worst of the worst list). The love triangle trope can be found in the *Kissing Booth* movies, while fake dating is easily found in the *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* novels.

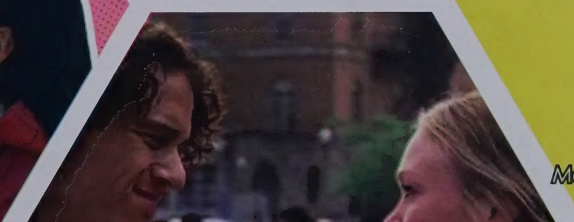
"ENEMIES TO LOVERS" & "THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD LOVE INTEREST"

If your friends like these tropes, it might be a red flag. Romanticizing falling in love with your sworn enemy? Yikes. And don't even get me started on the trope that has teen girls falling in love with a thousand-year-old man who looks young--it just gives me super creepy vibes. My opinion, however, is not absolute. Henline actually enjoys enemies to lovers because she "enjoy(s) the slow burn romance vibes and how the relationship of two characters goes through ups and downs throughout the novel." Henline also believes that enemies to lovers "adds an aspect of unpredictability" to the story. (My recommendation: Don't walk, but run away from her and anyone else who thinks enemies to lovers is anything but yikes). This trope can be found in the book *Dance of Thieves* and the movie *10 Things I Hate About You.*

"FRIENDS TO LOVERS" & "FOUND FAMILY"

These two tropes have to be some of my personal favorites, especially when it comes to book series. I love the idea of two childhood friends falling in love with each other and growing old together, or even just two people becoming friends first rather than spontaneously falling in love. And what trope is possibly better than found family, where the main character finds a new or extended family among friends that they meet throughout the story? These tropes are just so wholesome and heartwarming. You can find the friends to lovers trope in the TV series *Agents of SHIELD* (#Fitz-Simmons) and the found family trope in the *Heroes of Olympus* book series.





...AND THE WORST OF THE WORST:

"INSTA-LOVE" & "MISCOMMUNICATION"

Both the insta-love trope and the miscommunication trope are effective ways to ruin a romance novel or movie. Who wants to read a book where the two characters fall in love at first sight? Booooring. And the miscommunication trope, where there's an easily avoidable miscommunication between two characters, just complicates the story unnecessarily. Brayla Flottemesch (11) agrees that the miscommunication trope "just drags out the story and is aggravating." A movie with the insta-love trope is quite literally almost any Disney princess movie (not in the teen genre, I know, but there's no better example), while the miscommunication trope can be found in the book *Delirium*.

"EVIL FOR EVIL'S SAKE" & "TIME TRAVEL JUST BECAUSE"

These two tropes are lumped together because they both give off lazy creator vibes. It's very important to craft a villain with a meaningful backstory and to not resort to time travel just to solve plot holes. Claire Houser (9) says that "Evil for Evil's Sake is probably the (trope) that gets on [her] nerves the most," and who can blame her? She suggests *Phineas and Ferb* as an example of this trope because Dr. Doofenshmirtz "seems to have no consistent motive for building his evil inventions." As for the time travel, creators typically can't even keep their own time travel rules straight, making for an even more confusing experience. A book with a random dose of time travel is the *Kingdom Keepers* book series.

"UNSUPERVISED TEENAGERS" & "SOCIETAL OUTCASTS"

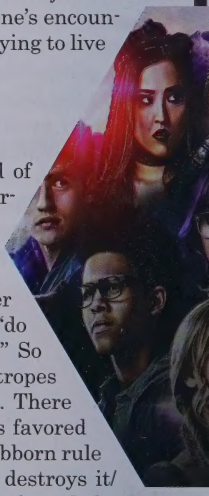
These tropes tend to be found hand-in-hand, with a group of societal outcasts being conveniently unsupervised and able to get away with anything for any reason. This is a pretty overdone trope and reeks of unrealism: what teenagers are able to be unsupervised for such long periods of time? Meghan Kelley (11), however, enjoys the "unsupervised teenagers (trope), preferably with a side of evil parents/authority figure." I will admit, this can make the lack of supervision a little more bearable. Kelley's recommendation for a TV series with "the evil parents part" that "gives so much DRAMA" is *Runaways*. A book with the societal outcasts trope is the *Mortal Instruments* series.

"TOKEN DIVERSITY FRIENDS" & "THE MAIN GROUP"

The main group trope--a common variation of which is the "golden trio"--is a story focused on one group of friends that have been and will be together forever. This trope is just a little basic and also unrealistic. The most unpopular trope (out of all my interviewees), however, is the "token diversity friends" trope, which sees undeveloped and flat characters added to the story just to check a diversity box, whether that be a person of color, a woman or an LGBTQ character. This just cheapens the story with inorganic and insensitive stereotypes. Styborski despises this trope: "It shouldn't be hard to include minority groups in stories as plot-relevant characters for reasons other than the group they represent." I won't call out any teen fiction with token diversity here, but a show with the main group trope is *Boy Meets World*. Its spinoff *Girl Meets World* is also overreliant on this trope.

"SHE LET OUT A BREATH THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW SHE'D BEEN HOLDING." & "I'M NOT LIKE OTHER GIRLS."

While "she let out a breath that she didn't know she'd been holding" is more of an overused line than a trope, it's worth referencing as it has been done to death. I physically cringe when I read this line in a book, as well as the line "her eyes widened in surprise." Eyes don't widen, people. What does that even mean? These types of lines are found in books like *13 Reasons Why* that lean too hard into the "main character" vibe. Finally, there's the ever-cringey "I'm not like other girls" that is completely synonymous with *Twilight* at this point. Flottemesch avoids the most overused trope ever because she considers it "too predictable" and says there are just "too many of them." And let's be real, everyone's encountered this trope (or even a real person trying to live out this trope IRL).



EPILOGUE

Overall, tropes are neutral in and of themselves, but are often tragically overdone, especially in the teen fiction genre. That's why we end up with a sour taste in our mouths whenever we hear the phrase "I'm not like other girls." Houser says that there are many tropes that "do make a good story" but "are overused." So now you know some of the mainstream tropes that lurk in every piece of teen fiction. There are more specific ones, such as Kelley's favored "government meets one particularly stubborn rule breaker that somehow singlehandedly destroys it/changes it" trope (very niche), but even knowledge of these few tropes is enough to reveal the secrets of teen fiction. Be sure to use this knowledge to temper your exposure to tropes so that you don't become worn out with overdone and poorly crafted tropes, and of course make sure that you never hear yourself utter the phrase "I'm not like other girls".

THE FALL OF FEMINISM

written and designed by
ELAINA SCHILT

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines feminism as "the belief in and advocacy of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes."

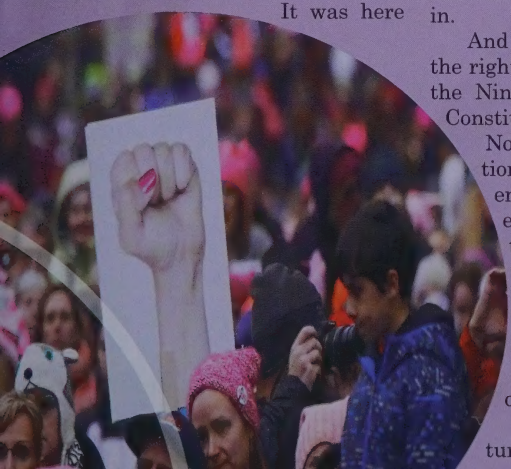
By this definition, I would consider myself a feminist, and I believe that most people would consider themselves to be one too.

However, the modern feminist movement has strayed from its original ideals of equal rights and opportunities to an equity-based, social-justice approach that degrades and disadvantages women more than it empowers them.

First, let's look at the history of feminism in the United States.

First-wave feminism was the movement from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century that aimed to achieve suffrage and property rights for women.

It began with the Seneca Falls Convention, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848, which was the first women's rights convention in history. It was here where the revised Declaration of Sentiments was written: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal."



It led to decades of social activism and political action that completely changed the future of women's roles in America.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association, as well as many other similar organizations of the late nineteenth century, were at the forefront of fighting for women's rights. Their success is evident in many aspects of life, the first being education.

The feminist organizations prompted colleges to begin educating women in the 1830s. Few women were able to learn in the same classroom as men at these universities.

Still, the progress was pivotal, as educated women began to take on roles outside of the home.

The movement also provoked an expansion of political rights. By 1900, women in every state had ample property and ownership rights. In 1917, the first congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin, was elected and sworn in.

And finally, in 1920, women won the right to vote with the addition of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Now having proper representation in American politics, women were able to work towards equal pay, ending discrimination and social improvement in areas such as education and the workplace, which were the goals that defined the era of feminism of the late twentieth century, second-wave feminism.

Into the twenty-first century, a new kind of feminism started to take shape.

This post-modern, third-wave feminism advocates for "woke" culture rather than a movement centered on women's rights.

For decades, feminism has focused on fighting the objectification of women.

Objectification is the reduction of a woman to her body and appearance, rather than her character and values.

Feminists today claim to adamantly oppose objectification, yet many also proudly support popular artists, influencers and entertainers who are the very proponents of it.

For example, many female celebrities have spoken out against objectification and claim that women who are seen in movies, music videos and advertisements are not realistic.

Isn't it ironic, though, that these celebrities who vocalize their disgust with today's beauty standards are the very proponents of these standards?

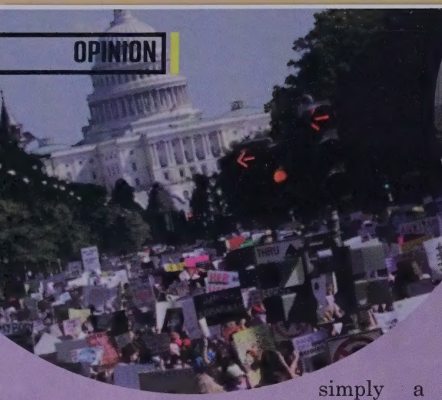
They are the ones who young women look up to. Therefore, they are the ones in the position to change this.

So many feminists claim to be opposed to these unrealistic ideals of attraction and objectification, while they proudly engage in or support the industries that make them a reality.

Furthermore, radical feminists are trying to re-define and erase womanhood.

Recently, because of the insane idea that the word woman is not inclusive enough, the term "birth-giver" or "birthing person" have been used by politicians, journalists and even scientists, to refer to women.

In an attempt to be more politically correct and inclusive, feminists have launched an attack on womanhood itself. According to this new term, women are not mothers; they are



HOW HAS FEMINISM STRAYED FROM ITS ORIGINS?

simply a body that can give birth to a child.

This is eerily reminiscent of the "newspeak" language of Oceania in George Orwell's 1984, where society shrinks its vocabulary and reduces complex thoughts to more simple terms.

This attempt to erase the word "woman" and replace it with a physiological term such as menstruating or birthing person does nothing but degrade women.

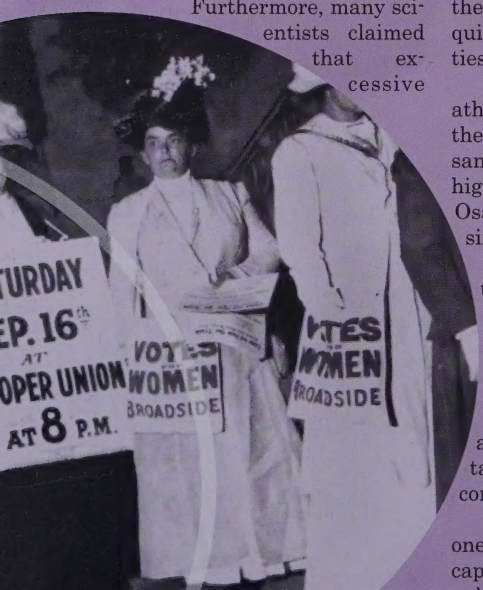
It directly contradicts the feminist, anti-objectification message that is pushed today.

These new and unfamiliar terms serve only to reduce women to their bodies.

Another area where today's modern feminism has split from traditional feminism is in athletics.

For centuries, women were thought of as too fragile and gentle to engage in physical activity.

Furthermore, many scientists claimed that excessive physical activity would harm a woman's beauty and fertility.



It was widely believed that it was not modest or lady-like for women to play sports.

It wasn't until the mid-nineteenth century that women began to engage in non-competitive golf, tennis, archery and swimming in a club setting.

Serious competitive sports for women during this time were pretty much unheard of.

By 1920—the same year that women achieved the right to vote—women's competitive college sports were finally under way, with 22 percent of universities offering sports to women.

However, physical educators at the collegiate level were so adamantly opposed to this that they got rid of all women's competitive sports in the 1930s.

In short, the road to women's participation in sports was a long road paved with obstacles and setbacks.

Finally, in 1972, with Title IX of the Education Act, women were required to be given equal opportunities in education and athletics.

Today, women have outstanding athletic opportunities. Women in the NBA make hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, and the highest paid female athlete, Naomi Osaka, has made over $57 million since the start of her tennis career.

Sadly, though, women's opportunities for athletic success are dwindling.

Modern feminism blatantly ignores the women whose livelihoods are being threatened by transgender athletes, who have an undeniable biological advantage over the women they are competing against.

Even after decreased testosterone levels, a man's oxygen carrying capacity is still higher than a woman's.

Also, a man's lung capacity is also 10 percent to 12 percent larger than that of a woman.

And, according to a study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, transgender women exceled in the physical tests performed, running 12 percent faster and doing 31 percent more pushups than women.

After hormone therapy, transgender women still have a higher lean body mass and a greater muscle area than biological women.

All of these factors and more contribute to the inherent physical advantage that biological males have over women when it comes to sports, even after hormone therapy.

There are countless examples of mediocre male athletes who underwent hormone therapy and easily rose to the top of the women's division.

For example, Craig Telfer, Fallon Fox, Laurel Hubbard, Lia Thomas, Andraya Yearwood and Terry Miller are just a handful of the many transgender women that are not only competing in women's sports, but are dominating them.

These are also reasons why seperate categories were created for men's and women's sports.

Is it really fair to women, who have spent over a century fighting for an equal playing field in sports, to be subject to competition against athletes who were born as men?

Women's opportunity to succeed in athletics is now being taken away in the name of inclusion.

Perhaps a league for exclusively transgender women would be a better and more fair option.

Modern feminism turns its back on the female athletes that are being outcompeted by transgender athletes.

These women whose careers are being destroyed don't dare to speak

ing will be done about it, and they don't want to be labeled as intolerant or bigoted.

The support that modern feminists show for many groups of victimized women does not extend to the athletic sphere.

Many modern feminists turn their back on the silent victims of this athletic unfairness, displaying the selective nature and double standard of the feminist movement.

Plenty of feminists will only support certain groups of victimized women—groups whose motives align with their own.

They claim to advocate for women's rights yet they ignore the violation of female athletes' rights.

Perhaps the most common myth that modern feminists perpetuate is that of the "wage gap."

While modern feminists lead you to believe that the gap is rooted in oppression and discrimination, there is more to the story than what meets the eye.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 outlawed gender-based discrimination in the payment of wages.

However, the modern, third-wave feminists of today constantly point out the infamous wage gap that exists between men and women. Is there really a wage gap, and if so, why does it exist?

Yes, there is a difference between the average salary earned by men and women annually.

The reason for this disparity, however, really boils down to individual choice.

Statistically, men tend to choose higher paying jobs than women.

For example, men make up 62 percent of all surgeons, 54 percent of anesthesiologists, 68 percent of lawyers, 92 percent of aerospace engineers, seventy-five percent of all architects and 60 percent of all financial analysts; all of which are very high-paying jobs.

Many women are more interested in career fields that happen to be lower-paying than male-dominated ones.

It is expected for men and women to choose careers that are more accustomed to their ideal, individual lifestyle.

For many women, though not all, getting married and having children is high on the priority list.

This is a truth that dates back centuries and has been reinforced by American social systems throughout history such as the Cult of Domesticity. In contrast, most men always have and still do tend to devote more time and energy to their careers.

Naturally, therefore, this variation in careers pursued by men and women exists.

According to the Pew Research Center, around 29 percent of women in America are stay-at-home mothers, while just 4 percent of men do the same.

This decision made by many women to give up a career for raising their children can account for much of the salary difference.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 57 percent of women participate in the workforce, compared to 70 percent of men.

Even with unemployment rates considered, the number of men in the labor force is significantly higher than the number of women.

All of these factors contribute to the so-called wage gap.

Women have all of the same opportunities that men do when it comes to education and careers.

It's simply the case that men and women usually have different interests and priorities that, in turn, align with different careers.

Just because there is a disparity between men and women's salaries does not mean that there is inherit discrimination or inequality.

In fact, in many areas, women are more successful than men.

According to the organization, Catalyst, women have been earning more bachelor's degrees than men since 1982, more master's degrees since 1987, and more doctoral degrees since 2006.

Likewise, women hold about 52 percent of all management positions.

Also, it is often said that men make more than women for doing the exact same job.

While there are pay differences by gender for the same job, it does not mean that men earn more and women earn less.

According to US Census data, there are many fields where women earn more than men for the same job, including childcare, social services, medical records specialties, and executive secretary work.

Women's increasing success in the professional field is evidence of the equality of opportunities between men and women.

There has never been a time in history when women had more opportunities than they do today.

The modern feminist movement is plagued with falsehoods, startlingly radical ideologies and double standards.

It does not welcome women with beliefs that differ from the increasingly-extreme feminist viewpoint.

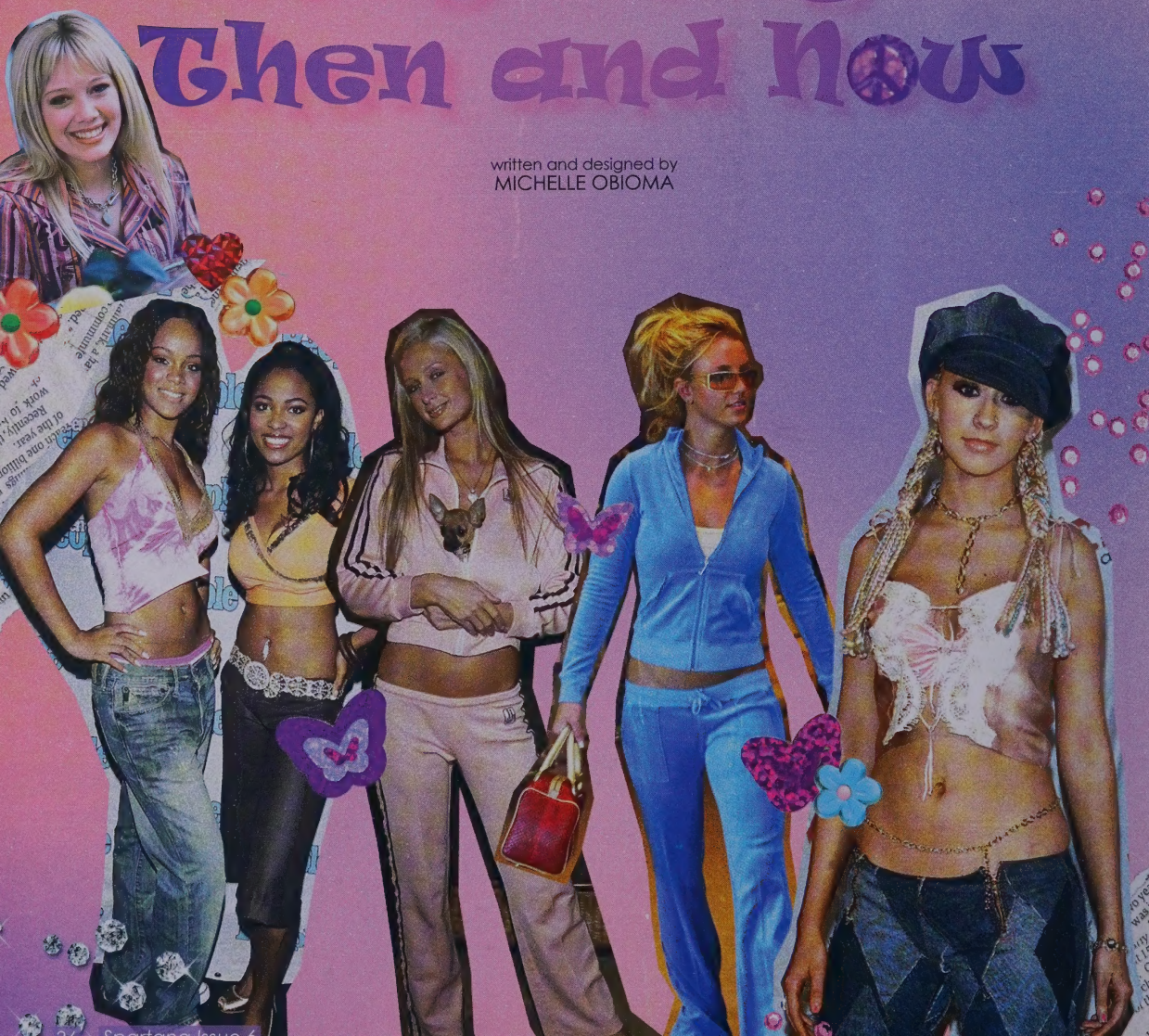
There is no place for pro-life or conservative women in the modern feminist movement, as it has become centered on political correctness and woke ideologies.

Traditional feminism worked towards a common goal, which was to secure equal rights for women.

The absence of many women's voices is a major flaw of feminism, and is yet another example of how today's feminism has strayed from its origins.

Y2K Trends and Teens' Body Image: Then and Now

written and designed by
MICHELLE OBIOMA



Reeling from the heroin chic trend of the 90s, which glorified nearly emaciated bodies and drug use, the 2000s piggy-backed off of the idea that being skinny was something one should aspire to be. Rampant diet culture constantly degraded anybody that was above a size 2. From whale tails to tube tops, to low-rise jeans, the body was something to be used as an accessory. Style icons like Paris Hilton and Christina Aguilera made a habit of showing off their slender physiques. If one wanted to stray from the beaten path and not participate in the latest trend, it was almost as if one was forced to. Many stores were stocked only with the season's hottest trends and would be selective with the sizes they carried. As these styles come back into fashion, one has to recognize that some of the exclusionary attitudes enforced by the trends of the early 2000s still linger. Seeing why these trends prevailed, gives one a better idea of how these fashion crazes affected — and still affect — teens.

Several trends of the early 2000s thrived off exclusivity. Various stars at the turn of the century had what was considered the "ideal body" needed to rock these trends – which almost always consisted of a flat, toned stomach. Having a completely flat midriff was unrealistic for most, yet this was the only figure that was idolized and just about worshiped because only so few could achieve it. Because of this, being able to feel like one belonged in the trendiest clothes felt like gaining an invitation into an elite club. It seemed like everybody was clamoring for an invite, regardless of what it would cost them. In shows and movies like Shallow Hal and Friends, relatively thin actors used fat suits for punchlines of jokes. People who weren't model-thin were continually seen as less than, and the trends of the era helped to enable this way of thinking by reinforcing a size 0 as the ideal body type.

The rigid body standards of the decade were also unattainable by those in the public eye. The media loved to pick on celebrities they thought were too big or too skinny and constantly handed out disparaging remarks. After seeing what comments others were making about her body, Hilary Duff developed an eating disorder at 17. She would meticulously plan out her meals and said that she "was totally obsessed with everything [she] put in [her] mouth".

As a teen growing up in the 2000s, Jazmin Whitley expresses that constantly talking about ways to lose more weight was seen as normal. Seeing girls struggle with their self-confidence and body perception was commonplace among young people. Whitley feels that the body-obsessed culture of the 2000s "left so many girls depressed and with such bad body image". The diet culture that consumed the decade drove many healthy people to feel like their bodies weren't adequate, dishing out insecurities that many millennials still struggle with to this day.

The "skinny is pretty" mindset is intrinsically tied with the clothes and trends of the early 2000s, making people feel like they need to have a certain body type to wear a piece of clothing. The pervasive diet culture of the decade still sticks to the fabric of these clothes, invalidating one body after another. With this decade of clothes coming into the view of fast fashion companies, Pinterest boards with the title "Things I'll Wear When I'm Skinny" have been growing in popularity. Looking through these boards one sees many bouts of crop tops, mini skirts, and form-hugging dresses, with the bulk of these clothes and trends being 2000s inspired. Gen-Z teens still feel just as excluded by Y2K trends as millennials were years prior. Despite being two decades apart, the ethos of the era still carries over.

There is no doubt that society has changed for the better with a wider variety of clothing sizes and trends available for the market and more body representation, but there is still work to be done. There are many steps needed to take to make the fashion world truly inclusive for all. Several curve models in the fashion industry only represent plus-sized people with an hourglass figure, leaving little representation for those with different body shapes. Plus-size fashionistas who are rocking Y2K clothes, like Jessica Blair, encourage their audience to accept their bodies as is, pushing to make sure that their following knows that they can sport Y2K outfits at any size. On Tiktok, Blair created a series of videos in which she educated people on the widespread body-shaming and fatphobia of the 2000s and continues to remind their audience that fatphobia isn't just a thing of the past.

Over twenty years later, scores of people are making it known that 2000s styles and trends can be rocked by everybody and on everybody.

What Would You Do For Talent?

Some of the most famous cases of musicians selling their souls for musical talent.

written and designed by
SAMUEL COLE

Ever since Johann Georg Faust (1480-1540) wrote his famous play, Doctor Faustus, his name has been synonymous with making deals with the Big Man Downstairs. In the play, Faustus makes a deal with the Devil to exchange his soul for limitless knowledge. Faust is undeniably one of the most infamous figures who has given their soul to Satan for a reward, whether it be money, fame, knowledge or love. Perhaps the most famous person who sold their soul as well as kickstarting a whole movement of musicians selling their soul for musical talent was Robert Johnson, a blues guitarist from Mississippi.

Robert Johnson

Robert Johnson was born in 1911 in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, and is considered to be one of greatest, if not the greatest, blues guitarists of all time. His eerie falsetto voice and masterful rhythmic guitar playing inspired many guitarists to come. After a treacherous childhood, Johnson ended up in Robbinsville, Mississippi, where he came in contact with the masters of Mississippi Delta Blues. They were Willie Brown, Charley Patton and Son House, all of whom influenced his playing and none of whom were impressed by it. Upon his return to town after being gone for a year, he had prodigious guitar, singing and songwriting skills. It is rumored that during this time, Johnson went to a crossroads at midnight and made a deal with the devil, with the stipulation that he would only have eight more years to live. His repertoire included several blues songs by other artists, but Johnson's original numbers—such as "Me and the Devil Blues," "Hellhound on My Trail," "Sweet Home Chicago," "I Believe I'll Dust My Broom," "Ramblin' on My Mind" and "Love in Vain"—are his most compelling pieces. Johnson only ever had two recording sessions, one in a hotel room in San Antonio, Texas and another in a warehouse in Dallas. Johnson died in 1938 after drinking poisoned whiskey from a bar in Greenwood, Mississippi. He was later inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986. Robert Johnson has been the seed of many stories, movies and TV shows, all of which are about selling your soul.

One of the few photos of Robert Johnson ever taken.

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin wasn't considered to be a particularly Satanic band back in the day, but the mythos of Satanism in Rock n' Roll has been around since the beginning of the genre. This is mainly because of the counterculture that rock music creates. Rumored to have sold his soul, Jimmy Page (one of the greatest guitarists of all time) stated, "My interest in the occult started when I was 15. I do not worship the devil, but Magick does intrigue me. Magick of all kinds. I read Magick in Theory and Practice when I was about 11, but it wasn't for some years that I understood what it was all about." Though he denies any demonic involvement of his own, he thinks that Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant was possibly visited by a Satanic power when he created their beloved track "Stairway to

Heaven," explaining why fans have found Satanic messages when playing the IV album backwards.

Robert Plant (left) and Jimmy Page (right)

Bob Dylan

In a 2004 interview with CBS, musician Bob Dylan cryptically explained that he owes his success to a decades-old deal.

Interviewer: Why are you still out here?
Dylan: It goes back to that destiny thing. I made a bargain with it, you know, a long time ago. And I'm holding up my end.
Interviewer: What was your bargain?
Dylan: To get where I am now.
Interviewer: Should I ask who you made the bargain with?
Dylan: With the Chief Commander.
Interviewer: On this Earth?
Dylan: In this earth and in a world we can't see.

In the same interview—Dylan's first in 19 years—he said, "Those early songs are almost magically written." In his song titled "Crossroads" (a reference to Robert Johnson), he tells the story of being at a crossroads with his soul. He falls to his knees, and pleads "to the Lord" to help save his soul.

Ed Bradley (right) and Bob Dylan (left)

According to the lyrics, it would seem that he is referring to God. But the very last line says, "And I'm standing at the crossroads, believe I'm sinking down."

The Beatles

Late in the Beatles' career, John Lennon influenced the other members to take interest in the life of the late occultist Aleister Crowley. The result of which was seen on the cover of their iconic 1967 album, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The book The Lennon Prophecy by Joseph Niezgoda talks about how Lennon made a pact with the devil to make him more famous than he could ever hope for. The Beatles popularized the idea of subliminal messaging, and secrets that can only be discovered by playing the song backwards, a phenomenon known as backmasking. When thier song "Revolution 9" is played backwards, the lyric "Number 9" becomes "turn me on, dead man", stoking the fire around the conspiracy of Paul McCartney's supposed death in 1966, and his replacement with a look alike.

(from left to right) Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Ringo Starr and George Harrison

The practice of selling your soul to the devil has stretched back for centuries and has inspired hundreds of musical artists to delve into the mysterious, subliminal, devilish side of the industry. And remember kids, DON'T sell your soul. The real way to play an instrument like nobody's business is PRACTICE.

OPINION

THE OSCARS ARE DEAD.

written and designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

The Roaring Twenties was infested with flappers, speakeasies, the birth of Nascar, the original gangsters and perhaps the most terrifying innovation of all: jazz. Think The Great Gatsby. Omit the green light and the worrying obsession with a married woman. Now add the First Academy Awards, or now colloquially known as the Oscars. The reason for its creation was simply to prevent unionization among filmmakers in the industry and to exert more control over production company employees. The award show was an afterthought. The winners were announced months ahead of the actual event and there was zero broadcast on television and radio. Also, Charlie Chaplin.

Fast forward nearly a century: it's 2017, a great big party and everyone is invited. 32.9 million viewers tune in, and you are one of them. Jimmy Kimmel is your gracious host and there are plenty of great contenders for Best Picture. Tensions are high, as the hosts open that fabled envelope and read out the winner: La La Land. The La La Land team bursts into cheers upon receiving the highest honor in the movie industry. Unfortunately for La La Land, the hosts had the wrong envelope. The rightful winner was corrected to Moonlight, and this moment is forever immortalized as the beginning of the end for the Oscars.

Now, 2022 presents a country grappling with the effects of a global pandemic, the increasing volume of media and celebrities that have lost nearly all of their allure. The Oscars loom over a weary nation's tired head and no one is watching. Many would blame the fumble in 2015 to be the reason for such ignorance, but the truth is that the Oscars' viewership has been on a steady decline for some time now. Obviously, viewership fluctuates from year to year, depending on the number of blockbusters or a milestone possibly being reached, but the general treadline is downward.

There are several reasons for the United States's collective disillusionment with the Oscars. For one, it's broadcasted through network television. To watch an already incredibly long award show, one must force themselves through about an additional hour of advertisement interspersed with boring award-show talk content. Through the luxury of the Internet, there is no need to actually watch the entirety of the Oscars; it is a lot easier and commercial-free to Google the winners afterwards.

In addition to the inaccessibility, the Oscars fails to account for the oversaturation of the award show market. Jamie Smith, Film Literature teacher, states that she "doesn't look forward to the Academy Awards as much as I used to only because there are so many different awards now." She's right. For reference, there are the Golden Globes, Sundance Film Festival, the Austin Film Festival, Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards, for the peckish the Teen Choice Awards, the BAFTAs for British content enjoyers and every other possible iteration of "Film Festival" that exists today. What's more is that most of the film festivals rank movies depending on artistic and storytelling merit far more than the Oscars. If every awards show is the definitive ranking of the best media possible, then none of them are.

However, the bulk of the Oscar's problems lie within the actual content of the show. There is some artistic el-

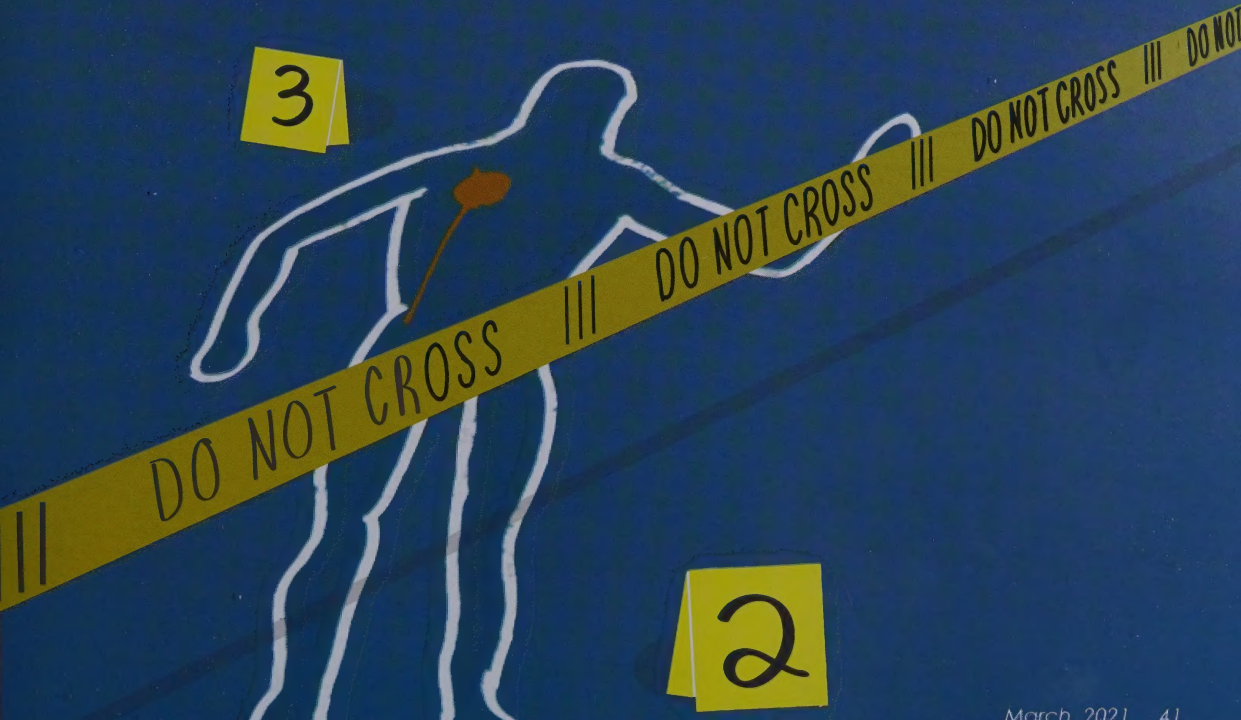
ement to the movies that are nominated, but to secure the award-winning spot, contenders must undergo an extensive PR campaign. To be named the best, actors, actresses, directors, anyone involved have to run successful marketing campaigns for themselves through attending interviews, Q&A's and catering to Academy voters. Actual acting knowhow and storytelling skills are secondary. Academy voters, once given the chance to vote, are given that privilege for life. A person who has not worked in the film industry in years may not have the best evidence to create an informed opinion on current trends in the media. However, a voter base that is entirely formed of film industry members are more likely to vote for their friends in the business. The Oscars have not done a good job in balancing this. Largely, the Oscars remain as a gentlemen's club. Every year, the Oscars claim to improve by nominating a few more minorities in lieu of actual progress. The Oscars need major structural changes to become more inclusive. At the moment, they are not evolving at a fast enough pace.

The actual format of the Oscars is also to its detriment. There is a host that either caters to the viewers at home by attacking specific members of the film industry (see Ricky Gervais), caters to the Academy members and award-seekers or just lacking chemistry (see Anne Hathaway and James Franco) or are embroiled in some kind of controversy (see Kevin Hart). Some awards are presented by pairs in the film industry which forces the two to make small talk. Award-show talk has a small chance of actually being successful (see Will Ferrel and Kristen Wii), but most of the time is either creepy (Jennifer Lopez and Jeremy Renner) or plain boring.

There is an ongoing war between prestige and entertainment much to the disappointment of everyone. Prestige, described by Smith as "pomp and circumstance," has been forcibly pushed center stage. Film industry professionals obviously want their talents to be recognized, so the Oscars must have prestige. The people want to see their favorite celebrities win and be awarded for their accomplishments, but the entertainment factor is a lot more important. The Oscars has lost "the value of the audience." The incident that occured in 2017, although scarring for the La La Land and Moonlight production teams alike, remained in the public consciousness enough for people to talk about it. Any music numbers or productions that are few far in between that are presented at the Oscars also increase viewership.

Against all odds, the Oscars are not dead. Yet.

It is evident that the Oscars has plenty of problems and that it is in need of dire reform. Even with more inclusivity and a format change, the Oscars needs a complete upheaval. From the way the Oscars are presented and who presents them, to the inner workings of who gets a vote. Smith puts it best: "Times have changed, and they need to change too."



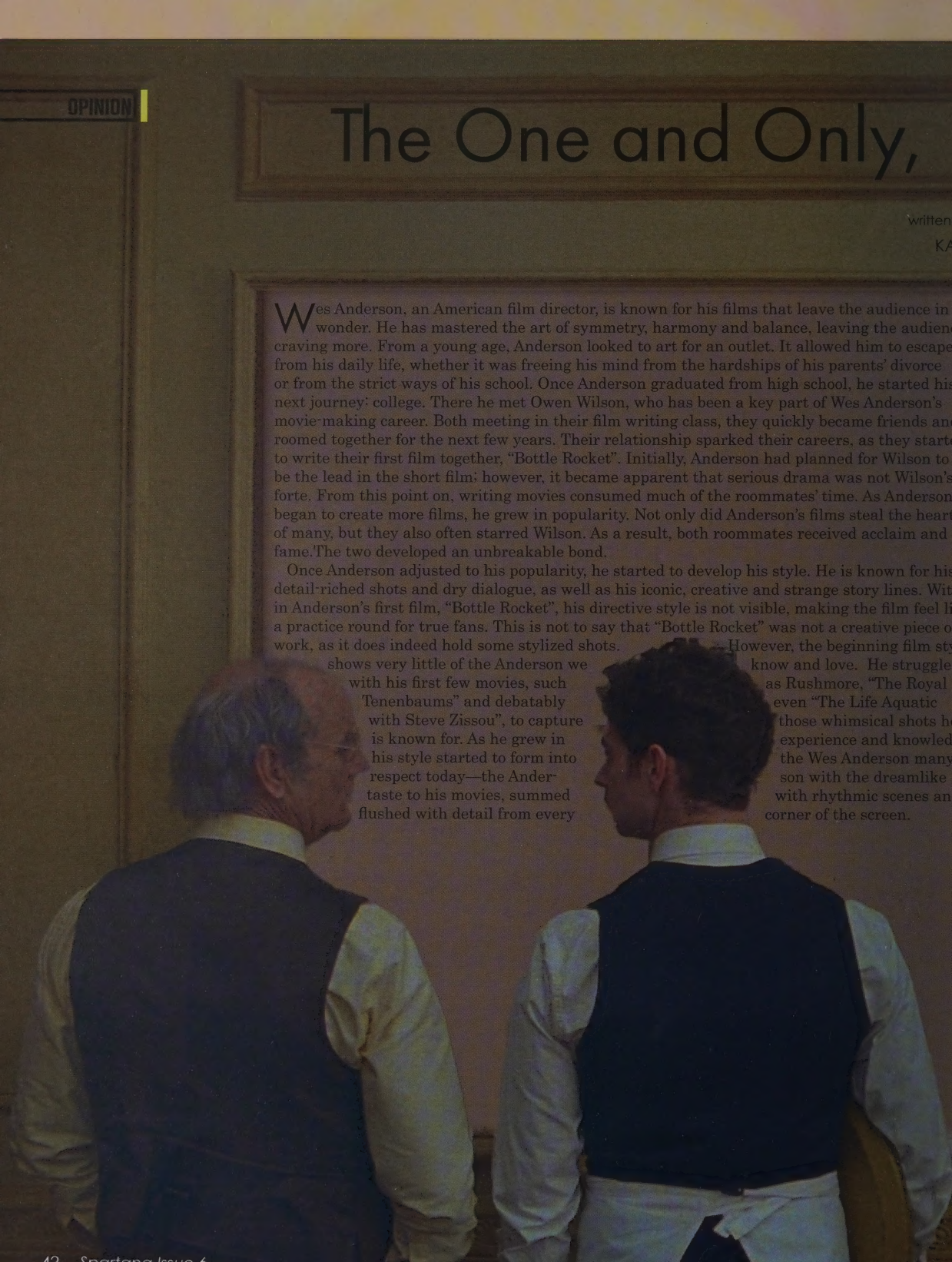
The One and Only,

written

KA

Wes Anderson, an American film director, is known for his films that leave the audience in wonder. He has mastered the art of symmetry, harmony and balance, leaving the audien craving more. From a young age, Anderson looked to art for an outlet. It allowed him to escape from his daily life, whether it was freeing his mind from the hardships of his parents' divorce or from the strict ways of his school. Once Anderson graduated from high school, he started his next journey: college. There he met Owen Wilson, who has been a key part of Wes Anderson's movie-making career. Both meeting in their film writing class, they quickly became friends an roomed together for the next few years. Their relationship sparked their careers, as they start to write their first film together, "Bottle Rocket". Initially, Anderson had planned for Wilson to be the lead in the short film; however, it became apparent that serious drama was not Wilson's forte. From this point on, writing movies consumed much of the roommates' time. As Anderson began to create more films, he grew in popularity. Not only did Anderson's films steal the heart of many, but they also often starred Wilson. As a result, both roommates received acclaim and fame. The two developed an unbreakable bond.

Once Anderson adjusted to his popularity, he started to develop his style. He is known for his detail-riched shots and dry dialogue, as well as his iconic, creative and strange story lines. Wit in Anderson's first film, "Bottle Rocket", his directive style is not visible, making the film feel li a practice round for true fans. This is not to say that "Bottle Rocket" was not a creative piece o work, as it does indeed hold some stylized shots. However, the beginning film st shows very little of the Anderson we know and love. He struggle with his first few movies, such as Rushmore, "The Royal Tenenbaums" and debatably even "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou", to capture those whimsical shots h is known for. As he grew in experience and knowled his style started to form into the Wes Anderson many respect today—the Ander- son with the dreamlike taste to his movies, summed with rhythmic scenes an flushed with detail from every corner of the screen.



Wes Anderson

ned by
ER

REVIEWS

"Moonrise Kingdom"- Rotten Tomatoes~93%
Evan Spice (Grade 12) Personal Rating~9/10

'Moonrise Kingdom" is widely regarded as Anderson's best lm. While still featuring all of Anderson's staple filmmaking echniques such as his symmetrical framing, the characters' flat elivery of their lines, and smooth rolling camerawork, it also ffers a romantic comedy story like nothing else he has done efore. The story of "Moonrise Kingdom" begins when Sam, a haki scout unsatisfied with his life, attends a local play with is troop and sneaks backstage where his eye is caught by a oung girl dressed as a raven, Suzy. The two become pen pals nd as they continue to grow closer, form a plan to run away ogether and leave behind their unhappy lives and explore the land they live on. As they adventure, the kids must find a way o avert the number of threats to their journey, such as the lo- al authorities, the khaki scout troup, and an impending storm n the horizon. With scene after scene of beautiful colors and ry humor, "Moonrise Kingdom" is a great introductory film into he world of Wes Anderson, and one that I would recommend to veryone, even if they don't hold any interest in the rest of his work."

"The French Dispatch"- Rotten Tomatoes~75%
Leo Walker (Grade 11) Personal Rating~ 9/10

My favorite thing about Anderson movies are the colors and the ay that the frames are set up, and this movie captures both of ose things exceptionally well. The colors are vibrant and warm nd he uses a lot of yellow, pinks, and blues which make me feel calm. The dedication to the symmetry also makes his movies visually satisfying."

"Isle of the Dogs"-Rotten Tomatoes~90%
Kate Hutner (Grade 12) Personal Rating~7/10

Isle of the Dogs" is an iconic movie produced by Wes Anderson. is an animation, holding differences within the shots taken for his movie. Although it still maintains the iconic bland and dry ialogue, it has a different effect than the characters of real-life Anderson movies because it does not capture the beautiful eneries of real-time. It is more dark and more somber in times, eating a different effect. "Isle of the Dogs" is still a must watch Wes Anderson movies; however, it does not give the same effect s some of his other movies do, causing more feelings of dislike towards this movie."

"The Fantastic Mr. Fox"- Rotten Tomatoes~93%
Kealynn Tunks (Grade 11) Personal Rating~7.5/10

"I believe this film most accurately portrays Wes Anderson's style of directing, leaving the audience with a slightly eerie feel for seemingly no reason. This is one of my personal favorites of his movies because I believe there's an underlying message about corporate corruption in our society."

"The Grand Budapest Hotel"- Rotten Tomatoes 92%
Gaia Splendore (Grade 11) Personal Rating~9/10

""The Grand Budapest Hotel" is quite possibly the best Wes Anderson movie out there. From the symmetrical shots to witty, sharp humor, this film radiates the directors style and personality. The movie is quick paced, encapsulating a wide variety of plot lines and elements. For example, this movie manages to fit in a murder mystery and art hiest all in its hour and forty minute run time. Also don't forget about the frame narrative within a frame narrative within a frame narrative! One of the best things about this movie, and really all of Anderson's work, is that it doesn't take itself too seriously. It's humorous and lighthearted, offering a pleasant and engaging experience. Overall, the movie is incredibly fun and beautiful to watch."

Check out our past issues on hhsspartana.com

Spartana

Issue 7 April 2

SPARTANA CALENDAR

APRIL 2022

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4-5 **Dad Jokes Part 2: The Sequel**	It's back, and it's cheesier than ever.		6-7 **Flipped Classrooms.**	Modern education's greatest accomplishment.	1 APRIL FOOL'S	
8 **NFTs** Learn about cryptocurrency's newest trend, non-fungible tokens.	9 **New Clubs of Homestead**	Ice sculpting, tic-tac-toe, and more!	10 **Death Too English**	English classes have little to no benfits. Here why.	11 **The Criminals of Public School: Females**	Education's greatest threa is its greatest distraction.
12-13 **Brute Suits Seek to Uproot Newts**	Athletic Management Board proposes a new athletic facility in the Environmental Center.	14-15 **Top Ten Reasons Why Indiana is the Best State to Live In**	Beyond low living costs, Indiana has plenty to offer!		16-17 **The Case of the Construction Conspiracy**	Discover more evidence of Mole People roaming the ceilings of Homestead.
18-21 **Short Reports**	Learn about Homestead's latest news without a time commitment.	FIND THE REAL STORY, EMAIL THE EDITOR, AND GET A PRIZE	22-23 **Homestead is Cloning Teachers!**	How many Howers can there be?	24-25 **Dr. Price's Not-so-Secret Fanfiction**	The AP Literature teacher respects all forms of writing.
	26-27 **Ew, You Own One of Those?**	Read about how your dog is the worst.	28-29 **The TMZ Story of the Easter Bunny**	Exclusive! The Easter Bunny's origins are more scandalous than they seem.	30-31 **Save the Spartana**	We may be going out of business...

Letter from the Editor

Would you look at this! A guest editor for the month. I am sure that many of you are remarkably distraught to see that you will not be receiving a Letter from the Editor from the one and only Claire Elliott. She has left me large shoes to fill.

In my opinion, April is a month filled with breaths of fresh air. To begin, there is the joy of spring break. As we depart from the misery of winter, we are blessed with a gift of rest. Whether you stay home or travel with family, spring break is a nothing but a small bit of relief before the sprint to the finish line. We must take our time to appreciate our ability to rest before all happiness is taken away from us.

There will be six brutal weeks until the glory of summer. Many of us will be studying for final exams, saying our goodbyes, and preparing for college. There is much respect to go to the time between spring break and summer. It demands hard work, sacrifice, and even possibly tears, but is rewarded with serotonin, sleep, and sun.

Amelia Elliott

Zoey the Dog

Also goes by:
- ZoBot
- Barko
- Zoko

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Flo from Progressive

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF MADELINE PHUONG

Dad Jokes Part 2: The Sequel

Back and slightly better than ever!

written and designed by
SAMUEL COLE

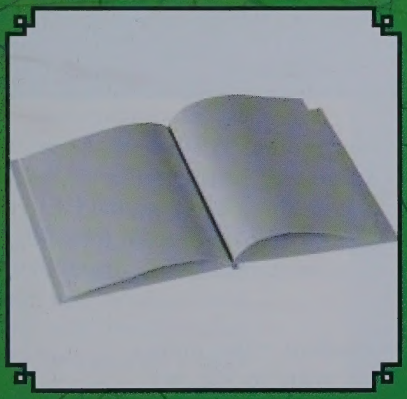
Well, you were probably hoping that you wouldn't be disappointed by dad jokes for a second time this school year! But I'm back, and these jokes are meant to bring out an even stronger exhale through your nose than the first round!

-What kind of music did the pilgrims listen to? Plymouth Rock
-What do you call it when Dwayne Johnson buys a cutting tool? Rock-pays-for-scissors.
-Why can't a leopard hide? He's always spotted
-What has ears but cannot hear? A cornfield.
-Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? Because they're so good at it.
-What do you call an illegally parked frog? Toad.
-How do you organize a space party? You planet.
-Why are skeletons so calm? Nothing gets under their skin.

-How do you get a country girl's attention? A tractor (attract her)
-Why are there gates around cemeteries? People are dying to get in.
-What do you call a pile of cats? A meow-ntain.
-What do you call a flea in France? A Paris-ite.

-How many apples grow on a tree? All of them.
-Why can't your hand be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.
-Why are elevator jokes so good? They work on so many levels.
-What do vegetarian zombies eat? Grains.
-What do lawyers wear to court? Lawsuits
-Why couldn't the sailor learn his alphabet? He kept getting lost at C.
-Why do ducks have tail feathers? To cover their butt-quacks.
-There are three guys on a boat, and they have four cigarettes, but nothing to light them with, what do they do? They throw one of the cigarettes overboard and the boat becomes a cigarette lighter.
-I couldn't get a reservation at the library. They were completely booked.
-When I was young, I wanted to play the guitar really badly. Now, after years of dedication and determination, I can play the guitar really badly.
-Usain Bolt stole my neon-green jacket. He can run, but he can't hide.
-100% of elevator related deaths happen on the elevator.
-I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me.
-You can't run through a campsite. You can only ran, because it's past tents.
-As I handed my dad his 50th birthday card, he told me that one would've been enough.

-I once wrote a song about tortillas, but it's more of a wrap.
-I used to be able to play the piano by ear. Now I play with my hands.
-I would tell you my joke about paper, but it's tearable.
-I wouldn't buy anything with velcro, it's a total rip-off.
-I made a pencil with two erasers. It's pointless.
-I never trust stairs. They're always up to something.
-Why are snails bad at racing? They're sluggish.
-I started reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.
-I invented a car that moves only if the driver is silent. It goes without saying.
-Bad brakes have never stopped me before.
-I bought a thesaurus the other day, but when I got home, all the pages were blank. I have no words to describe how I feel.

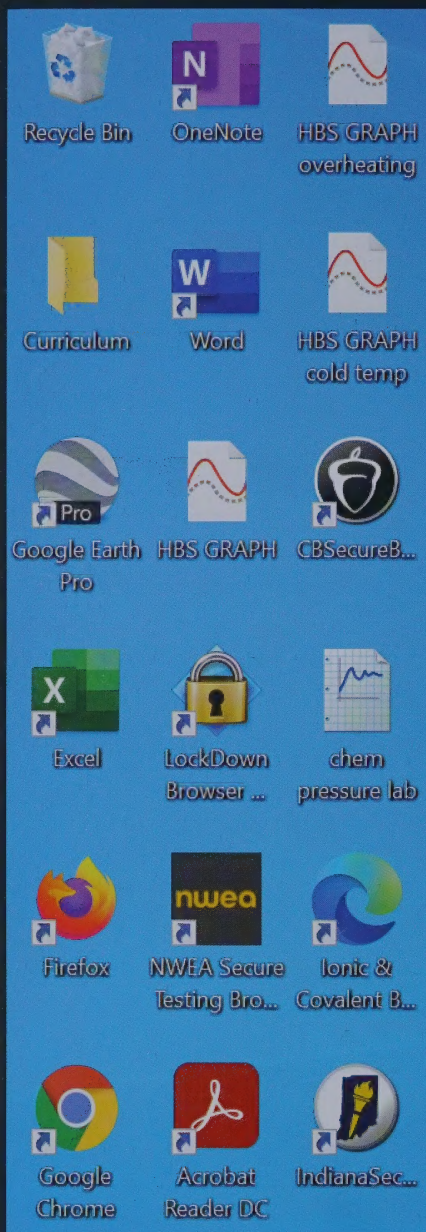


-My friend said: "You have a BA, a Masters, and a PhD, but you still act like an idiot!" It was a third degree burn.
-I started a band called 999 Megabytes, but we still haven't gotten a gig.
-A man is washing a car with his son. The son asks: "Dad, can't you just use a sponge?"
-I just found out my friend is secretly a priest. It's his altar ego.
-When I was a kid, my mother said I could be anything I wanted to be. Turns out identity theft is a crime.
-I'm starting a new dating service for chess players in Prague (the capital of the Czech Republic). It's called Czech-Mate.
-My dog used to chase people on a scooter a lot. It got so bad we had to take his scooter away.

I think we all need to take a minute here to appreciate this picture of a dog on a scooter.

-Spring is here! I got so excited I almost wet my plants.
-I was playing chess with my friend when he said: "Let's make this interesting." So we stopped playing chess.
-I've been getting bored more often as of late, so I decided to take up fencing. The neighbors said they would call the police if I didn't put it back.
-I'm reading a horror story in braille. Something bad is going to happen, I can feel it.
-My doctor told me that I was going deaf. The news was hard for me to hear.
-My IQ test results came back. They were negative.
-I was addicted to doing the hokey-pokey, but I turned myself around.
-I had to sell our vacuum cleaner. It was gathering dust.

Well, there goes about 15 minutes of your life. And you spent it reading 50 or so dad jokes. Congratulations! You deserve (insert witty joke prize here, like a fake gold medal or something.) But all jokes aside, I hope whoever reads this has (or is having) a wonderful spring break. From the bottom of my heart, thank you readers, we wouldn't be here without the few that actually pick up a Spartana.



FLIPPED

There have been many complaints when it comes to how academic classes are structured. The education system is failing us. Students' grades and mental health are declining rapidly because of the way classes are functioning. Lectures in class don't work. Practice problems? Haha, nice try. Extra videos? Nope! Students are failing to grasp information during their classes. Discussions in classes are far from helpful. Walking through problems? Don't even bother asking. However, teachers have found a solution: flipped classrooms.

1.

Flipped classrooms will be the new success. Students are thrilled at this amazing opportunity. Freshman Jackson Smith said, "I'm so excited for all classrooms to switch to this change."

Another student also adds in, "I can't wait to see my grades improve, Stella Hutchinson said (11).

2.

CLASSROOMS

written and designed by
ALESSIA PASSONI

Take a note...

"My math class was a flipped classroom, and I always went home stress free and ended the year with a strong grade" (11). Like Avery, many students are excited for this new change.

3.

I myself am excited for this change. Flipped classrooms always helped me learn concepts better, especially in math. I think Homestead is going to see the passing rates increase, meaning that less students will need summer school. Additionally, the mental health of students will skyrocket as students will become happier and healthier. Sophomore Avery Johnson mentioned how flipped classrooms have already helped her.

4.

All courses at the beginning of April will switch to flipped classrooms. Notes will be given to students to complete at home, and quizzes and homework will be completed in class. With this lack of teaching, grades will start to increase and students will understand concepts better. No longer will kids silently struggle.

5.

Could this be Homestead's last year with teachers? Lessons for the whole year would have to be recorded before the year even starts. What if you only came to school to do online quizzes and tests and just learned from home? This change could also benefit the students as they can work at their own pace without teacher guidance. Will we continue to see changes in teaching?

6.

42°F

10:36 AM
3/21/2022

NEW CLUBS OF HOMESTEAD

written and designed by
ELAINA SCHILT

ICE SCULPTING CLUB

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make beautiful creations out of ice blocks?

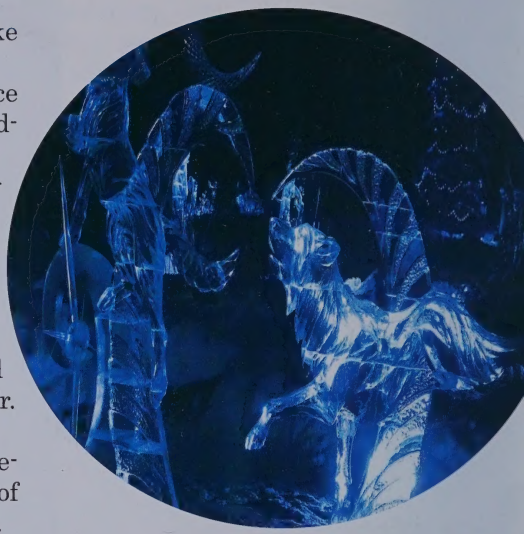
Well, now's your chance! Homestead's Ice Sculpting Club is open to all students, regardless of sculpting experience.

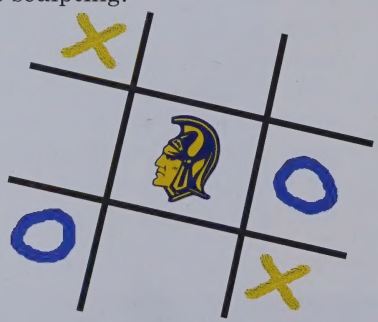
This is a great opportunity to try something new and unique. You'll get your own ice block, which you will work on turning into an amazing sculpture over the course of the semester.

The club will meet every other Tuesday in the cafeteria walk-in freezer starting April 19th. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Welch to sign up.

A parent permission slip and $30 will be required upon joining. The dues cover the cost of the ice blocks, which will be provided for you.

There will be limited tools available, so please plan on bringing your own. Don't miss this special opportunity to try your hand at the art of ice sculpting!





TIC-TAC-TOE CLUB

Do you love playing tic-tac-toe? Homestead's Tic Tac Toe Club will be starting up soon!

Come to play with friends and learn different strategies to give you success with this simple, yet classic game.

This club is open to everyone; new and experienced players are welcome. Meetings will be every Thursday in Mr. Gerig's classroom. Interested? Contact Mr. Gerig for more information and to sign up.

NONCOMMITTAL CLUB

Have you ever been interested in trying a new hobby, but you just don't have the time? you have, then the Noncommittal Club is for you! Come to meetings every other Wednesda in Mrs. Brehm's room to try different activities every week.

The activities will range from art projects to card games, and it will be something di ferent every week. This club is perfect for students who want to discover new hobbie without a commitment to any specific one. Please contact Mrs. Brehm for mo information.

NFTs

written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW

If you live anywhere other than underneath a rock, you've probably heard of cryptocurrency: a window into the future of money. In light of less than half of the American population being college-educated, the technological geniuses of this generation have constructed a simple and seamless method of monetary exchange. Paper money is far too complicated. I mean, come on, first the gold standard, and now this? Clearly labeled green paper with a universally acknowledged value? Why do that when you could own an image of an astronaut monkey worth thirty million "dollars"?

NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, have taken the world by digital storm. It is imperative to understand exactly how these little bundles of joy work. Lucky for us commoners, it is a fairly simple idea: an NFT exists as an object on a blockchain—a database for cryptocurrency— and once you purchase the image, the blockchain says that you own it. The NFT comes to exist in your digital wallet where you, and only you, own it. "Own" meaning... well, not much. I would compare it to being told that you have won bragging rights—at the cost of a wallet, either digital or physical, full of cash.

Joking aside, NFTs are a great asset to you and your happiness. Maybe you got a really cool one, like a little dude with a beanie or a koala wearing a tie-dye t-shirt. Now you are free to look at it whenever you want, a right not necessarily exclusive to you, as most NFTs are posted all over the internet. Once you buy your NFT, you are rewarded with the extraordinary ability to watch twelve-year-olds on the internet use your digital money as their Instagram profile picture.

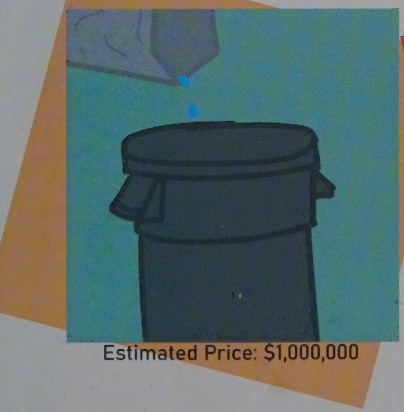
Plus, making and minting NFTs is a fairly lucrative business. All you have to do is buy an Apple pen and iPad, learn how to do digital art fairly well (or not), decide on a creative and exciting idea, execute this idea to perfection and upload it to a blockchain. Or you could take a Twitter screenshot and sell it for 2.9 million American dollars (shoutout to Jack Dorsey, co-founder of Twitter).

Maybe you're wondering if you should buy an NFT, and I am here to tell you —yes. Some people cliff dive or swim with sharks for the adrenaline rush, but buying an NFT can do all of that, right from the comfort of your own home. There is absolutely no guarantee that the token you buy is going to be worth a single penny once you buy it. Think of it as the stock market, except you have no idea if that investment is going to be successful or not. It's kind of like lighting money on fire.

I know what you're thinking: "This sounds kind of silly." And honestly, at one point, I thought so too. But then, a personal hero of mine endorsed the NFT market, and I haven't looked back. Everyone's favorite capitalist billionaire Mark Zuckerberg wants the masses to know that non-fungible tokens are the way of the future. When we all come to live in his virtual reality metaverse, NFTs will replace the humble paper dollar. All of us—except those who can't afford virtual reality goggles, people susceptible to vertigo or headaches and anyone who isn't actually content living in a screen for the rest of their lives—will succumb to this temptation.

All that aside, the NFT business is a fascinating and serious topic, so to do my part, I have created a mini-series of Homestead-inspired tokens. I have not minted them because trying to understand blockchains makes my brain decompose, but they arguably have as much value as any other NFT on the market.

In conclusion, the future is bright. Brighter than it has ever been and I can't wait to gamble my hard-earned cash for a picture of a poorly drawn grape.

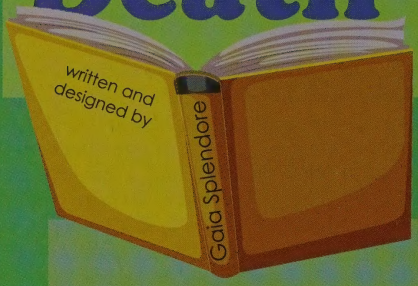


Estimated Price: $1,000,000

Estimated Price: $10,000,000

Estimated Price: $2,000,000

Death too English



Recentlee, I have come to the acktulizachun that inglish classes are simplee not nessecary—I mean, who needs thumb? Homestead, and all skools for that matter, push these boaring classes far to much, going as far as two make them mandatorie.

My first reezoning on why these classes help no one is that we, as students, just donut learn anything! Ive been in inglish classes for as long as I can remember, and if someone put a gun to my head and told me to tell them what an adverb is, tell my cats I luv them. Does anyone seriously know what an adverb is. Please, contact me if you do.

Secondly, some of the buk choices are questionabul at best. I mean, if your going to make students read sumthing at least make it orijanul. Take "Romeo and Juliet," a tired play that has been shoved down our throats sense the beginning of highskool inglish classes. But hey, I have an ideeuh, maybe actually watch a play.

Last time i checked, they where meant to bee enjoyed on stage by profeshunul actors, not popcorn read by a snotty kid who can't even spell enjineer. Engiener? Enjunear? Yeah, enjunear. You just gotta sound it out!

Or take another classic, "The Great Gatsby." Let me give you a hipohthetikul. Wood you rather be lektured about what the green light REALLY means or watch Leonardo Dicaprio throw temper tantrums while looking hot? I no what I want.

Finally, the teachers have no ideeuh what there talking about. I mean, how does it make since that I have failed all the inglish classes iv takun? Make it make since. We can all tell I am profishent at reading comprehenshun and writting, so I do not need some socialite teacher in flowy pants telling me what to do, telling me that Herman Melville didn't need an editor for Moby Dick and that all of the chapters have a "meaningfull purpose." Read A Squeeze of the Hand and say that again.

In conclushun, these classes are dumb and if Homestead really cares about they're students they would remove them, and many other things, from the graduatun pathways.

THE CRIMINALS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL: FEMALES

written by
ANONYMOUS
designed by Madeline Phuong

The goal of education in the United States is to equip students with the knowledge they need to succeed in life past school, allowing them to contribute to society and better the great nation of America. Unfortunately, America has fallen from prominence as one of the best-educated countries in the world in recent years. This fall from excellence has coincided with more liberal dress codes in schools.

Every public school in America is required, in some form, to make and enforce limitations on the way students dress. School dress codes were created to further the mission of the school: preparing students for future success. Because both young men and women are in close proximity to one another, dress codes help limit distractions for young men by requiring modest dress.

In recent years, these regulations have become more relaxed, allowing girls to wear attire that is utterly abhorrent, such as leggings. Most administrations permit leggings with the requirement that a girl must wear a shirt of length enough to cover her rear. This is completely ridiculous and causes countless, helpless boys to be distracted by the alluring nature of the lower legs of the female sex. A studious young male who is practicing his multiplication tables might look up from his work to see a female classmate in a knee-length shirt walk by. By no fault of his own, her distracting green leggings that barely veil her calves may cause him to lose focus of his studies, as he begins to imagine what could be hidden under that thin, stretchy layer of cloth. This distracts him from his education. If a female is to attend school, the dress code must be amended to require that she wear heavy, dull-colored and formless bottoms, like snow pants. The figure of her legs is far too distracting to be seen by young men.

An equally grievous offense,

THE SHOULDER, HAS BECOME ANOTHER FREQUENT CRIME IN MANY AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

Oftentimes, a female will come to school in a shirt that shows the figure of her shoulder, revealing the muscles of her arms, the line of her collarbone and the crevice of her armpit. At any moment, a male who is diligently studying may be distracted by this immodest display of the female anatomy. A student who is carefully conducting an experiment in a biochemistry class may look up to see the evil shoulder, only to lose his train of thought while wondering whether females have armpit hair just as men do. When he resumes his experiment, he will likely make a mistake and ruin his learning experience. On the rare event that a female is so inconsiderate as to leave her shoulder exposed, many young men will pass out from shock, falling unconscious to the floor, and forget everything they have learned that day.

Because these occurrences are so frequent and dangerous, and the female shoulder so distracting, the dress code of any school that hopes to provide its students a good education must be changed to require that females always wear at least five layers of clothing on their upper half, so as to obscure their shoulders from innocent young men. This would protect the integrity of the learning environment and prevent young men from any dangerous falls.

Both more common and more grievous than the aforementioned issues, the problem of exposed digits has plagued the American education system. In modern schools, many dress codes permit female students to wear sandals that leave their toes exposed. Even the most dedicated male student can lose his concentration when confronted with those 10 little piggies. By allowing girls to wear sandals that expose their toes, schools set male students up to be mediocre. How can a school expect its male students to pass tests when it allows girls to flaunt exposed digits? A young male might be taking an important exam, only to drop his pencil. While bending to retrieve it he could spy a female's exposed toes. Rather than continuing the test, by no fault of his own, he may continue to drop and retrieve his pencil for the duration of the testing period in order to continue to observe her digits. The toes of the female sex are far too attractive to be permitted to remain exposed. Schools that want the best for their male students should change their policy to require that every female wear woolen socks and wooden clogs every day. No flats or tennis shoes, as they too closely resemble the form of toes. And sandals must certainly be banned because of their distracting nature.

Upon further consideration, I have concluded that the problems we believed to be caused by too-lenient dress codes actually stem from something greater: women themselves. Even if a school were to enact a dress code that, as I suggested previously, requires women to clothe themselves in formless bottoms like snow pants, a minimum of five layers of clothing on their upper halves, wool socks and wooden clogs, the problem of distracted young men would persist. Rather than being distracted by actually seeing the calves of a lady, her shoulder or even, heaven forbid, her toes, a young man would be distracted by imagining them. A young man taking an English class might be writing an essay, only to hear coughing across the room. When he looks up to say, "Bless you," his eyes might catch a female who is covered in the modest attire I have suggested. His attention now removed from his essay, he may find himself picturing the young woman sitting in the same chair, but instead clothed in leggings, an oversized shirt and sandals. Because of her presence in the room, the young man would be forced to imagine this scene, and rather than write his essay, he would unconsciously slip away into his imagination. As the young woman is covered in the modest attire I had previously suggested, it is clear that

THE ISSUE AT HAND IS NOT WHAT SHE WEARS, BUT HER PRESENCE AT ALL.

If a school desires to educate its students well, it ought not to allow young women in the same building as young men. And in building new schools for the newly banished young women, the government would be forced to remove funding from existing schools. This is problematic because reduced funding would lead to less pay for teachers, which would cause more teachers to find other jobs, leaving male students without instructors. As this is the only logical course of action, it becomes clear that, not only should females wear the modest attire I have suggested, they should also no longer be educated because their mere presence is distracting. Educating them elsewhere would require funding, which would detract from the education of young men.

With these facts established, the only course of action is incredibly clear. The solution to the problem with the American education system can be traced, not to dress codes, but to females. Their very existence is counterproductive to education. We must ban them from public schools. And, if in the unlikely event that this is not possible, we must at the least amend the dress codes of public schools to require that they dress modestly in snow pants, five layers of clothing on their upper, wool socks and wooden clogs. Doing this is the only way to solve the issue or, at least, staunch the bleeding.

BRUTE SUITS SEEK TO UPROOT NEWTS

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

Homestead's environmental center, or EC, has become a source of joy and comfort to many. Dog walkers, environmental science students, and red-eyed youths (it's allergies) all see the environmental center as a place of refuge. The center is even more of a haven for the flora and fauna that inhabit it. It is an island of nature amid the cement seas of Suburbia.

The little island, however, may sink under the waves of municipal development. After their last meeting, the Athletic Management Board proposed the creation of a new athletic training facility in the space that much of the EC occupies. While no plans are official, the project would require the clearing of one third to two fifths of the EC. Nevertheless, the board feels that the tradeoff is worth it.

"The Future Athletes Training Center (FATC, pronounced fat-see) will revamp, maybe even revolutionize Homestead's athletics," Assistant Director of the SACS Athletic Management Board Zach Carlyle said.

The location of FATC is vital to the project's success. As the building will lie just across from Aboite, elementary school students will be able to have easy access to the programs offered by FATC.

"In this day and age, athletics are just as important as academics. And honestly, SACs needs to find a better balance between the two. One day, me and the other buddies in the Athletic Management Board thought, 'Hey, if there's an Alpha program at Aboite, why can't there be a sports version?' I mean, we're the Spartans, not the Athens," Carlyle said.

The Alpha program and the Spartan program are similar in many ways. In both, kindergartners must show their merit through a series of tests. Whereas the Alpha programs tests consisted of memorization, math problems and fitting the right colored shape in the right colored hole, the Spartan program will include all elementary fitness tests and "The Hurling Hurdles." (The children will run hurdles until they hurl. The last one standing wins.)

Unfortunately for Carlyle and his coworkers, the Spartan program has met considerable criticism. Dissenting parents question the fairness of the program, as many children reach their growth spurts at different ages.

Father of two, Jeff Harmon said, "I was a late bloomer, but I was a good football player. You're telling me my kid can't get in the program just because he's still puny?" Alice Leishman holds similar concerns.

"My daughter, Caroline, is a first grader. Last month she broke her elbow playing travel soccer in Fishers. If she's going to make the United A-team this summer, she needs to be in that program. Why should just kindergarteners be tested, huh? Caroline could outrun them," Leishman said.

Carlyle has since quelled the worried parents by affirming that, as in Alpha, Spartans may enter from kindergarten and onward.

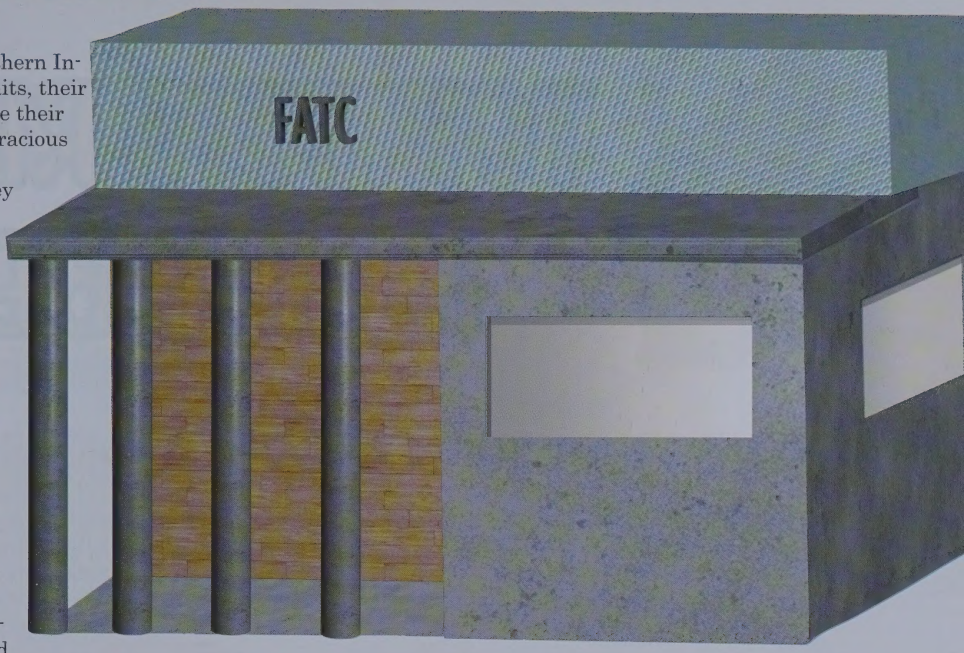
"We would never want to disadvantage some superstar just because he hasn't reached his potential. We are here to help these kids reach their potential. As workers in education, it's our job," Carlyle's subdirector Nicholas Scheffler said.

While the anger of soccer moms and football dads has subsided, the passionate disapproval of environmentalists rages on. Just two months before the Board proposed FATC, scientists found an endemic species of newt in the EC. Known as *Sloof lirpa*, or more colloquially as the yell'er-bellied newt, the amphibians exist only

in the wetlands of Northern Indiana. Among other traits, their notable features include their inquisitive eyes and voracious sexual appetites.

Herpetologist Sydney Walker has studied amphibians for over twelve years. She has specifically researched *Sloof lirpa* for two.

Walker said, "The yell'er-bellied newt is nocturnal, with its most active time being just after dusk. As such, the creatures remain largely unseen. With night-cameras, however, we were able to capture the newts in their natural habitat. Within SACS's environmental center, we found that the newts exhibit foraging and storing activities similar to that of squirrels. They collect maggots, slugs and other insect nymphs in piles. Just before dawn, the newts feast until they all fall into a food coma. We were even able to witness territorial wrestling between two newts named Isaac and Craig. Essentially, they just roll around on the ground."



Proposed design for the Future Athletes Training Center

Walker and other scientists are concerned whether the small population of yell'er-bellied newts will be able to survive the habitat loss that will come hand in hand with the FATC.

"We have only confirmed the presence of about two hundred newts in the EC, and around 1,700 in Northern Indiana. If the *Sloof lirpa* become extirpated, or locally extinct, in the EC, the species will bear a significant loss in genetic diversity and perhaps be faced with extinction itself," Walker warns.

Homestead's Environmental Club is currently protesting the Athletic Management Board's plan. Along with other unathletic students, they are wearing "yell'er" colored headbands in support of the EC's new favorite newt.

Despite the increase of what he calls "soft-hearted fears," Carlyle is not worried.

"Who really cares about lizards?"

Location of FATC within Environmental Center

TOP TEN REASO
IS THE BEST S

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

1) NEIGHBORLY PEOPLE

Indiana is well known for having very friendly people. Your neighbors are guaranteed to check in on you every once in a while, invite you to sit on their porch or in the middle of the street to have a (definitely non-alcoholic) drink and even offer to take care of mail and plants while you're on vacation. In fact, they're so neighborly that you'll find them peeking past you when they knock on your door and whispering to other neighbors about what you've been up to, although this is certainly not because they're snooping. It's not a bother at all when you want to go to bed and the neighbors are still partying in the center of the cul-de-sac. If you're looking for very neighborly neighbors, move to an Indiana suburb.

2) FOOTBALL

It's widely known that Indiana is the top state for high school and college football--remember that time that Purdue beat Ohio State? (Obviously a regular occurrence). Anyways, if there's one sport that Indiana is known for, it's football. Homestead, for example, currently has a whopping ONE state title in football, a major achievement because of the intense focus that Indiana has on the golden sport. If you're a fan of football or an athlete looking to go pro, Indiana is the place for you.

3) YOU'LL BE A HOOSIER!

While some may try to convince you that you'll be known as an Indianan once you move to Indiana, that title is reserved for Indiana University students and fans (be sure to call them that at every opportunity). True red-blooded residents of Indiana are called Hoosiers, the dopest title in the country. Who wants a straightforward name like Texan or New Yorker? Bo-oring! Stay in Indiana and you'll be blessed with the opportunity to explain to all your out-of-state family that no, Indiana does not follow the "add an -n or an -er" rule. We're rule-breakin' Hoosier rebels!

4) MAJOR METROPOLISES

Another staple of Indiana culture is our many major cities and urban areas. We've got the bustling city of Fort Wayne, arguably the center of Midwestern culture; Elkhart, the RV capital of the world; Evansville, which I'm sure has something special; and even Corydon, Indiana's former capital. All of these cities are anything but boring. There's also this place called Indianapolis, if you're into a more small town vibe or want to learn more about homelessness, crime and poverty. Personally, I suggest visiting Gary if you want to experience the beauty of gray smog and factories. There's a reason Indiana is called the City State!

5) CONSISTENT YET INCONSISTENT TERRAIN

Yet another benefit of life in Indiana is the ability to traverse very consistent localized terrain that is inconsistent statewide. You can start in the northern dunes of northern Indiana, move into the plains of central Indiana, and end in the rolling hills of southern Indiana. You'll find that you can travel miles through rolling hillbilly hills or endure enjoy endless miles of cornfields with occasional pockets of *gasp* trees. There's nothing more enjoyable than never knowing what kind of terrain you'll encounter as you travel and stare out the window at flat fields for hours on end.

S WHY INDIANA ATE TO LIVE IN

Graphics courtesy of Illustoon and Kindpng

6) BUSTLING NIGHTLIFE

An integral part of Indiana's culture is the emphasis on nightlife. Enjoy the marvels of all our major cities as late as 10 pm (on weekends). Yes, 10 at night! There's no end to the fun you can have traversing the two or three museums that remain open for extended hours, or checking out the local Target or Walmart with your friends. This bustling nightlife won't keep you held up in the busy downtown restaurants, but traversing the rest of the wonderful attractions that Indiana has to offer.

7) INDY 500

Cars! We have cars! Fast cars, with cool drivers! Once a year, we host a BIG race in the heart of a small town called Indianapolis, AKA Indy. This is apparently a really big deal, and we even get some rude out-of-towners that fly and drive from all over the country to watch the race. All I can tell you is that one day a year, Hoosiers get half-interested in these fast cars and have an opportunity to brag to each other about how many times the cars will go around the racetrack and how many people come to watch it. The number 500 is also somehow involved, but this is one of the many thrilling days featured in the Indiana life.

8) ALL FOUR SEASONS

Indiana is also the state for anyone who says that they wish they "had all four seasons" in their state. Indiana has every single season, sometimes even more than once. If you love winter, you'll get around three winters with little mini-springs in between. If you like spring, it's sprinkled throughout the year, sometimes with the bonus of massive amounts of pollen. If summer's your jam, we have every type of summer from 98 degrees and sunny (and hot and dry) to massive thunderstorms with a tornado warning (and who doesn't love tornado-watching?) Finally, we have the beautiful fall weather that sharply drops off from sweater weather to light snowfall and hail on Halloween. All four beautiful seasons are fully experienced in Indiana, so get here before you miss another one of our characteristic mini-season weekends!

9) DEER

Indiana is a great place to get in touch with nature and engage with local wildlife. There are opportunities for you to find your inner peace while sitting in trees to scope out deer with a loaded gun. We love hearing the sound of gunshots late at night when you're trying to sleep and early in the morning when you still want to be asleep, as our daring hunters finally hit their targets. Plus, you can rest assured that these hunters will be unable to get all the deer, so they'll be prepared to run at your vehicle or get run over by your vehicle. Aaah, the joy of frantically scanning for deer and other wildlife while you drive to school in the morning. There's only one thing more Indiana than deer, and that's:

10) CORN!

Don't worry everyone, I saved the best for last: corn! Indiana is famous for its high-quality, extra yellow corn. No matter what part of the state you're in, I guarantee you will be able to find this iconic piece of Indiana. From the dunes to the plains to the hills, there's always a cornfield tucked away for you to enjoy. There's nothing more fun than driving for miles and seeing only corn, or using corn as the backdrop for every single sunset photo you'll take. Corn gives life to the Indiana economy, and is genuinely interesting to learn about. Indiana: Cornfield Capital of the World!

The Case of the Construction Conspiracy

Revised & Revisited

written and designed by
THOMAS HILL &
KAIYA CRONKHITE

THE CONSPIRACY DEEPENS...

Collapsing ceilings. Erratic temperature differences. Overreliance on flipped classrooms. The demolition of the sketchy red hallways. The Lockout of March 4th. A series of seemingly unrelated things that are actually part of the Homestead Construction Conspiracy.

I'm Thomas Hill, and you may remember my case file from the May issue of Spartana last year. It was then that I first reported on the conspiracy operating within Homestead for the past few years. I wrote extensively about the conniving mole people and sinister aliens that have been attempting to destroy the school and consume its students, as well as the brave, ancient ghosts that have been trying to protect the student body. If you've somehow forgotten about this groundbreaking collection of evidence, including documents and data in the form of anecdotes, I urge you to find a copy of the case file and read it.

Unfortunately, I've recently been unable to continue my investigation of the Construction Conspiracy due to my obligation to other clients and cases (you can hire me at www.pleaseinvestigatemyconspiracytheorynow/thomashill.com). Fortunately, I've been able to hand this case off to someone just as daring, delightful, and conspiratorial: Kaiya Cronkhite, journalist extraordinaire, and my latest—and only—protege. Please carefully review the troubling developments she has discovered in The Case of the Construction Conspiracy: Revised and Revisited Edition.

From The Desk of Kaiya Cronkhite:

As Mr. Hill previously mentioned, there has been a series of strange additions to the already suspicious school building we reside in. First of all, if you haven't noticed the strange brown spots on the ceiling or the areas where there is no ceiling at all, then I'm not quite sure what you've been doing. Maybe you believe the rumors that they tell you on HHS in-depth and how "there are cracks in the asphalt" but you shouldn't buy one bit of it. If you had any real common sense then you would clearly see the mole peoples' bidding. It's no big secret that the mole people control over half this school (including the cast of HHS in-depth) but what's even more sinister is all of the innocents who have accidentally witnessed their evil doing and now live in fear. One of the English teachers here at Homestead reveals a shocking truth when he had the bravery to come to us for help. To keep his identity safe we will not reveal his first name but Mr. Drayer told me in a secure interview about the worst moment in his life. "I witnessed one my first year teaching and now I always make sure to leave before the sun goes down because I don't know what they will do to me" (Mr. Drayer).

Thankfully, the ghosts have been protecting both students and teachers. Little do many know, however, that all those annoying cold spots around the school are actually the ghosts protecting us. For the saftey of the students and teachers, a growing reliance on flipped classrooms has built as teachers aim to prepare students for a long term evacuation due to growing conflict between the mole people and the ghosts. If many recall the events of March 4th, there was a mysterious lock out. Students and teachers never recieved an explanation and besides the people who were at Homestead that day, nobody seems to remember it even occurring. This is an immediate result of A COVER UP. An anonymous source reveals that on that day the mole people were witnessed charging towards to cafeteria in what people can only assume was a planned attack. Classes were imediately put into lock out mode as the mole people were a threat to student saftey. The battle raged on in the "red hallways" where it apears the ghosts prevailed. Sadly though, the red carpets hallways was destroyed in the process. Or so we are told. Maybe the battle left evidence of their existence, maybe the construction is to destroy all evidence ever. Are we getting too close? Or is this all just a hoax?

Spartana's

SHORT REPORTS

Homestead's Modern Ceilings

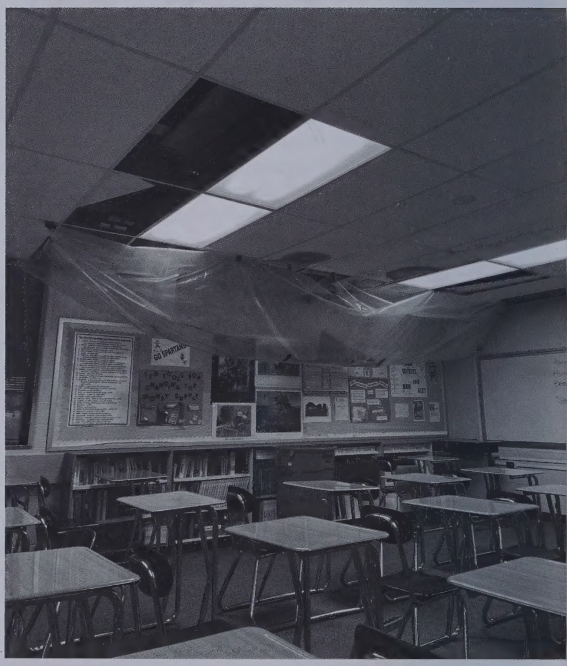
by Madeline Phuong

As the Homestead High School Additions and Renovations Project progresses, Spartans have encountered various changes in their everyday lives, from inconvenient parking arrangements to strange, new hallways. What many fail to realize, however, is that one crucial renovation is now being implemented schoolwide: an open air ceiling.

You may have noticed the absence of select ceiling tiles as they rot and collapse into a pool of murky, brown liquid. Although some term this development "utterly disgusting" and, quite frankly, "scary," it inspired one of the most important and innovative features of the renovation plan yet.

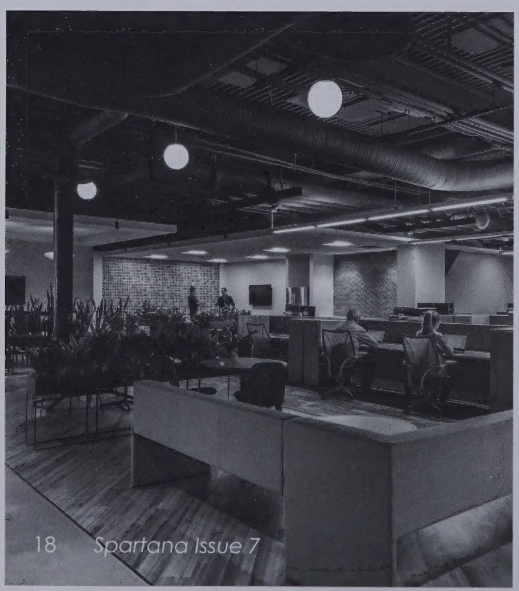
"Over the past couple of years, we've been getting suggestions on adding more accessible greenspace to the plan," said Apryl Full, the Additions and Renovations Project Supervisor. "We decided, if students want to be outdoors, why not bring the outdoors to the students?"

During the 2020-2021 school year, many teachers elected to move their classes outdoors as the weather permitted. This method of outdoor education is not a novel one. Studies by the American Institutes of Research and National Wildlife Federation demonstrate the positive effects of learning in greenspace, such as improved self-confidence, environmental stewardship and stress management.



Open Air design in Room 727

Proposed Ceiling Design



Full added that the timing of the current ceiling's decay has certainly sped up their timeline. More importantly, the open air ceiling plan has drastically lowered costs. Originally a $169 million, four-year project, the additions and renovations process is now projected to cost only $124 million. Even better, the $45 million in savings from material and labor costs will be applied towards lowering the tax rate.

Students , parents and teachers across the board are welcoming this change of plans. In particular, the open air ceiling will enhance the curricula of courses such as Environmental Science, Earth and Space Science and Advanced Science: Astronomy. Students in these courses can experience firsthand the natural processes that they study, with the option of overnight observations currently being considered.

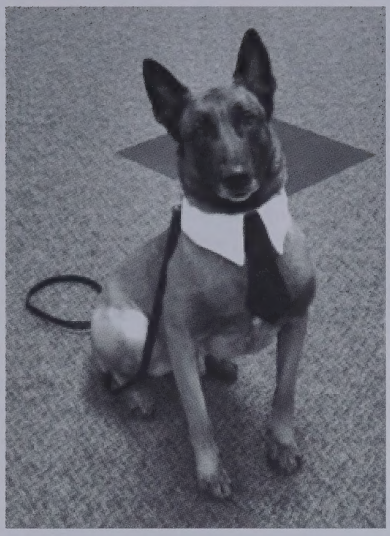
Some question the practicality of this new building plan, especially during the winter months. Full addresses these criticisms with the benefits of a fully immersive experience: "By no longer sheltering students, we can equip them with hands-on tools to truly prepare today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities."

The K-9's Krispies

by Claire Elliott

We all know Loki. At least we have all seen him, trotting through the halls and wagging his tail. Perhaps he even kissed a freshman's hand. To us, he represents a just order - one of stability and safety, and friendliness too.

Yet the only just aspect of Loki is his name: He is a trickster and a thief. The beloved canine has been pocketing his the cafeteria's chocolate chip Rice Krispies for months. Inside his doghouse, officials found his stash of wrappers as well as "A Canine's Guide to Conmanship." It's safe to say that Loki is in the real doghouse now. There is even evidence suggesting that Loki was reselling his Krispie collection at Canine Camp Dog Park. Still, Police cannot seem to leash in any confessions.



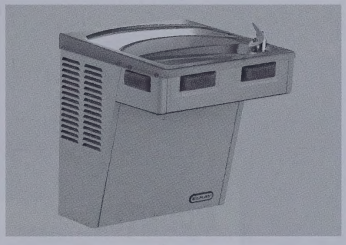
Charlie, a golden retriever of the Harrison household and a key witness, said, "I ain't no rat."

Meanwhile, the dogged Loki gives no comment.

Contaminated Water Fountains

by Gaia Splendore

Any thirsty Homestead student is painfully aware that the drinking fountains are down. In order to get water, students must remember to bring some from home, or maybe even buy some at lunch or the coffee bar in the morning. The bravest of brave, however, can face death itself and venture to the single working fountain in the creepy construction hallway. For those who don't know, certain fountains are down around Homestead. And unfortunately, these public facilities do not seem to be coming back anytime soon.



Anticipating that the problem was fixed and the water was good as new, the school ran more tests on the water. However, the results shocked them. Numerous chemicals have been contaminating the cool, fresh water that Homestead provides. For example, Alpha-linolenic acid, neoxanthin, chemical X, myricetin, syringic ac--- you get the point, have all been found in the water. Not to mention that the construction workers' Porta Potties now drain out directly into the fountains. Stay safe Homestead.

Advisory Suspended Indefinitely

by Melody Thrasher

Due to the chaotic amount of changes occupying Homestead's attention such as construction, parking situations, and covid; the staff has decided to make the executive decision to get rid of the unnecessary hassle of advisory once and for all. Since the school has been effectively operating without advisory for quite a while now, it is clear to see that it is not a necessity. Although it can be argued that advisory was beneficial in helping students complete their graduation pathway module, the school has proposed a new and more productive solution. Since 5th period has an extra amount of time in the school day, students will have time to complete their modules with the aid of the 5th period teacher.

Football Merges with Math Department

by Claire Elliott

Due to teaching shortages, Homestead will begin employing the entire football coaching staff as math teachers. All of the subjects will be taught via flipped classroom, "the most valuable learning tool of our century."

The third assistant manager of the freshman football team, David Williams, said, "If we can create athletes, we can create mathletes, too." While he himself is not a "numbers guy," Williams plans to use his strategic mentality to help students "follow the drills of math, and just run it through."

Construction Ends Early

by Claire Elliott

Southwest Allen County's sole high school undertook its massive renovation project on Aug. 5, 2020. Since then, teachers, parents, students, and frustrated squirrels have been wondering when the construction would reach its conclusion.

Initially, district officials expected the project to cost four years and $169 million. Now, however, they believe the high school's makeover will be done in just two years.

"It looks like we'll be wrapping about right around August, just before the new school year," construction management director Jake Billings said, "Honestly, this renovation has been a journey for all of us - construction workers, administrators, teachers and students. I think we all may be just a little sad to see it go so soon."

AP Tests Will Be Rescheduled to the Week After Spring Break, Among Other Changes

by Thomas Hill

Attention AP students! The College Board has announced several major changes to the AP tests taking place this year. First of all, they have moved the dates forward to the week of April 10th, 2022 in order to accommodate international students. You can find the new dates of your test on the College Board website. Additional changes include the following:

All AP students will be required to be seated at least "19.5 megalithic yards" away from other students due to a spike in scores last year, which the College Board attributes to cheating. The College Board believes that "seating students farther apart will help to prevent the spread of viruses like COVID-19 and make it more difficult for students to copy the original work of other students."

All tests will now be taken in two parts, with the multiple choice section being on a scantron sheet and the free response questions on the computer. The College Board states, "Students' handwriting has devolved over the past few years to a level of illegibility that is comically horrendous. We feel that it is abusive to expect AP readers to read these responses and will thus move to typed responses. Schools will be responsible for printing the responses and mailing them to College Board headquarters." This change only applies to American students, for anyone wondering.

Shockingly, the College Board has decided to allow mechanical pencils to be used on the test after years banning them: "We have concluded that banning mechanical pencils has no statistically significant effect on cheating levels and are discontinuing the ban on mechanical pencils. However, we continue to encourage students to use wooden pencils to help preserve the traditions of the AP test." They claim this has no relation to their recently acquired majority stock in the company Mechanical Pencils USA.

These are the major changes that have been made to AP tests for this year and following years. Further information and updates can be located on the College Board's website, www.wehatechildrenandlovestressfultests.org.

New Mascot

by Claire Elliott

In response to complaints by various third parties, Homestead will be shedding its Spartan brand and assuming a more inclusive mascot. So far, the leading candidates are:

-The Lima Beans
-The Suburbans
-The Yell'er-Bellied Newts

Students can influence the decision by participating in the poll at hhsspartana.com.

Graduation Pathways Updates

by Melody Thrasher

It's no secret that in order to graduate from Homestead, students must complete the graduation pathways module located in the Canvas modules. Although they may seem mundane and unimportant, the graduation pathways are a necessary part of students' journey as they progress through their high school career. They help students think through their potential career options and life decisions. Thus, there are five extra modules added to the requirements of the pathway modules. All students must continue to think about their futures and what possibilities there could be.

Parking Changes to Help Students

by Claire Elliott

Due to the inconvenience and stress caused by Homestead's reduced parking lot, the administration has agreed to valet students in the oncoming school year..

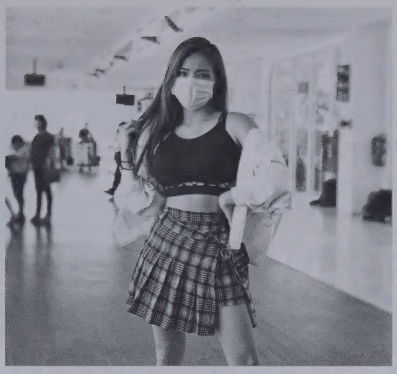
"We realize that students pay for the parking spots with lost time, sleep, and dollars. With our valets, we can eliminate the two of those costs," Treasurer-in-training Stephanie Hanover says.

While students still have to pay for parking passes, they do not have to worry about finding a parking spot. Homestead also plans on introducing Bus Lux chauffeur service in the upcoming years.

Summer School for All

by Alessia Passioni

All eLearning days and cancellation days will now be made up in the summer. Students are expected to make up these days starting at the beginning of April. We plan on ending school around June 15th with the added school days. Students can't wait to make these up in the summer.



New Mask Policy

by Claire Elliott

In efforts to combat new variants of the Coronavirus, SACS introduced a new progressive mask policy. While masks still remain optional, Homestead plans to incentivize wearing them by reducing dress code restrictions for those who do. Simply put, the bigger the mask, the shorter the skirt.

Miniature Golf Fights for Varsity Jackets

by Claire Elliott

After years of invisibility, Homestead's miniature golf team demands to be seen. More specifically, they want the prized blue and gold varsity jackets awarded to all other athletic groups.

Mustafa Altamimi (11), the team captain, said, "Just like every other sport, our team is constantly practicing our craft, and training to be the best possible versions of ourselves. By having varsity jackets, we can solidify the legitimacy of our passion."

Moreover, the miniature golf team strength is not limited to spirit. The team has taken first place in many respectable mini-golf tournaments. According to Coach Brandon Shramek, it is the raw, inextricable competition of mini-golf that fuels the team. Said competitive struggles appear in both the physical and mental spheres.

Altamini explains, "If you aren't at peak physical conditioning, your strokes on the day could very well be severed. Same goes for mentally - if the thought process pertaining to stroke power and angle is not perfect, you are not looking at a good night of mini golf."

Shramek, a geometry teacher at Homestead, is all about angles. He attests that the game is not only mental, but also mathematical. As such, he argues that it is a game worth statewide recognition.

"Golf is considered an IHSAA sport here in Indiana state. And, from experience, I've learned that putting is typically the hardest part of the golf game. So, in conclusion, miniature golf is just as difficult, if not more difficult than a game of golf," Shramek said.

Those on Homestead's golf team, however, disagree.

"(Minigolf) simply takes no skill. It is a disgrace to the great game of golf to compare it to miniature golf, and I can't believe they are considering awarding letterman jackets to a team that practices at the glow-in-the-dark course at Crazy Pinz," varsity golf player Simone Senk (12) said.

While Crazy Pinz is a prominent location for the miniature golf team's winter practices, the mini golfers do not think it undermines the legitimacy of their sport. Just as in other Spartan athletics, the mini golf team is founded on friendship and filled with fun traditions.

The team's most notable tradition, both to them and their competitors, is their peculiar uniform modification. Shramek explained, "A few years ago we had a miniature golfer by the name of Jonathan who actually wore two different colored socks during his match. But, he had scored the lowest possible score for his entire career with two different colored socks, so now we have what's called the Jonathan rule, and that is during events, we have to wear two different colored socks."

Still, the team's colorful customs pale in comparison to their teamwork.

"I love being able to form relationships with other teammates and continue those friendships past golfing. My favorite experience was winning my first round with my teammates by my side," Katie Carrel (11) said.

The IHSAA will not release their decision regarding miniature golf's statewide standing until after the next moratorium. Still, Homestead students can cheer on the miniature golf team whether its players have varsity jackets or not.

"An audience or group of support would help our motivation for sure," Carrel said.

Those of us who have interacted with Dr. Price most likely remember him as the sarcastic, dramatic and slightly terrifying authority who oversees the AP Lit cult. He's clearly illustrated his love for the books taught in his classroom, but this love is more concerning than we initially thought. I have discovered a shocking secret about our respectable teacher: Dr. Price is writing fan fiction.

Dr. Price's Wattpad account has been found. On it are multiple fanfictions including characters from "Moby-Dick", "Wuthering Heights", "King Lear", "A Streetcar Named Desire" and many other books from Homestead's English department. The most popular tags used on his account are [Hurt/Comfort], [Heavy Angst], [Character x Reader] and my personal favorite, [Shameless Self-Insert].

While many of his stories on his Wattpad account are retellings of classic stories, (like "King Lear" but written in modern times, or "Wuthering Heights" but Heathcliff is a vampire) Dr. Price has written one fanfiction that does not meet this criteria: A "Moby-Dick" AU in the world of the hit show, "Breaking Bad".

In this "Breaking Bad" "Moby-Dick" fusion, cleverly titled "Bad Moby! A tale of whales and woe," Ahab plays the titular role of Walter White. Instead of a chemistry teacher creating crystal meth to benefit his family, Ahab is a history teacher who sells dried ambergris laced with cyanide to enact revenge upon the man who chopped off his leg. (As you can tell, he's also a fan of "Madame Bovary".)

Ishmael and Queequeg both act as Ahab's partners and former students, playing the role of Jesse within the show. They help him harvest ambergris and mix it with the deadly poison. Starbuck "of course" portrays Henry Schrader, fighting to bring the three drug lords to justice.

I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Price's interpretation of this story, though I did have to make sure I had a dictionary by me whenever I was reading it. Even still, the word choice is spectacular, the story is captivating and the characters stay true to their original roots, while also growing and developing organically. Dr. Price's fanfictions are packed with details, as well. My favorite part was the very beginning of the story, where Ishmael is sitting in a coffee shop, and Dr. Price decided to fully describe Ishmael's coffee order, which is a lukewarm chai latte with skim milk and extra foam and cookie crumbles on top in the shape of a heart. Was it excessive? Yes. But was it cute? Also yes.

I highly recommend checking out Dr. Price's Wattpad catalog, especially if you've enjoyed some of the books we've read in our English classes over the years. You can find his account on Wattpad under the tag @proffessor_expenditure.

I encourage you to read his stories and to leave a comment! A few others you may know happen to follow him; they can be found hanging out in his comment section and giving him their full support. Why not engage in a little literary discussion?

189 Comments

17 minutes ago

Mrs.AaronRochester

This was so amazing, no wonder that one kid got a tattoo of the whale after reading the book! 😭🐋🥰

1 hour ago

LoriLikesBooks

👀

47 minutes ago

The_Tara_Shires

OK but this is so much better than certain classics that I've read—I'm looking at you Daisy Buchanan 😤

1 hour ago

SIR_marcuspeech

Would love an audiobook version

1 hour ago

Coachofthemongols

👍👍👍

1 hour ago

shakesHERE

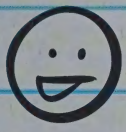
Pure genius

Homestead High School

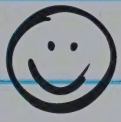
written and designed by
KAIYA CRONKHITE

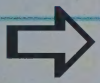
There is something seriously strange going on at Homestead. If you don't know by now that there's a teacher shortage, sorry to break it to you, but you live under a rock. But what I've noticed through all my official research into this school is that Homestead seems to never run out of teachers. Specifically, there are a few teachers who never seem to be absent, one of whom is Mr. Arata, a science teacher. Convenient thing is, I am a part of the biomedical science club, and Mrs. Behrens and I have been conducting some under-the-radar research and noticed a strange pattern. Every other Friday, Mr. Arata and a large number of suspicious-looking "students" have been meeting. During these meetings, they claim to be playing euchre, but their cover fools no one. What I discovered leads me to believe that there are a handful of teachers who may indeed be clones, and Mr. Arata their leader. To combat this growing problem though, is helpful information on how to spot these clones. (Credits to an anonymous source who will not be named at any point in this article for their own protection).

is Cloning Teachers!!!!



Mr. Arata's tips to tell who is a CLONE





If They Have VERY Similar Names

You may be heartbroken as you suddenly realize your favorite teacher is a clone. Sorry, but the truth must come out, as harsh as it is. Some classic and obvious examples that somehow went unnoticed for *way* too long are the Baileys. The creator may have been a little bit precautious by changing Mrs. to Sra. but it's still pretty obvious and how anyone was fooled beats me. Another classic example is Dr. Price and Mr. Trice, this time they got slightly creative and with the name change being a whole *one letter* and a different title, I suppose. Unfortunately for the clone hunters, they caught onto us and have now been hiding the clones in different ways.

If They Almost NEVER Talk About Their Personal Life

While this tip is not guaranteed to identify clones with 100% certainty, there are some likely suspects. These suspects will not be named because if we were wrong, that would be rude to accuse them of such a thing. *By saying this, the clone hunters association is not claiming to be wrong under any circumstance;* however, we also have no money and cannot afford to be sued for slander. A likely sign that your teacher is a clone, though, is if they never talk about their life... almost as if they have no life outside of school. This would be the most effective use for Homestead clones because they would never have to take sick days, would grade papers very efficiently and would be able to handle Karen parents without getting upset. This saves Homestead a LOT of money because not only would they not have to pay these teachers but they wouldn't have to ever pay a substitute teacher aswell.

If They Teach a Flipped Classroom

This one is SO obvious that I almost feel bad for everyone who doesn't already know this. If your teacher does this, *or has ever done it*, then they are a clone. End of story.

Ew, You Own

written and designed by
KAIYA CRONKHITE

Golden Retriever

These dogs are completely overrated. Does anyone really like them, or are they just trendy? Golden retrievers shed and slobber everywhere, and they rarely bring the ball back. Pretty terrible at retrieving things if you ask me. Plus, of all the colors you could get a dog in, why the dirty yellow?

Goldendoodle

Same argument as above, only curly. I get that they're hypoallergenic or whatever, but they still need constant haircuts, leaving them looking like naked rats after. They're not as nice as people think, and I've personally been attacked by a MINI goldendoodle who goes by the name of Sydney. Here's what she had to say about it "Woof Woof Bork Bark." You would think that maybe the mini goldendoodle would be okay, but no; they are even worse and use their size to sneak attack people.

Husky

Where do I start on this one? For one, their non-stop barking annoys everyone. Either people who own these dogs are deaf, or wake up and choose violence every day. Huskies shed nonstop too. Similar to the golden retriever, huskies have unlimited energy, which leaves a trail of their hair everywhere.

Labrador

This is basically a short-haired golden retriever. It has all the same negatives minus the need for frequent haircuts; however, this advantage is offset by mass drooling and the constant need to be different. Everyone owns one of these dogs but they try way too hard to be cool and quirky by dressing them up or getting one in a different color than the three other people on their street.

Bulldogs

I hope you are rich, because these dogs are a walking medical bill. Between the breathing problems and literally everything else, you better be ready to dedicate all your time and money to care for these dogs. Yes, they're cute, but the constant snorting is a no from me.

One of Those?

Doberman / Rottweiler

If you like these dogs you're either a self-proclaimed "baddie" or a wannabe tough guy. Yeah, they look cool, but is there really a need to bob their tails and clip their ears just for you to look cool? How about you do it to yourself and leave the poor dogs alone? They are not your accessory. These dogs are grouped together because their only difference lies in thickness. They make this list because aside from the people who use them for decoration, nobody really likes them.

Corgi

Do you like Tootsie rolls? Fantastic, because you own a living one. They bark nonstop and howl at everything, but they don't really make up for it in cuteness. What is there to gain from owning a corgi? Being considered trendy by other people with a taste for Tootsie rolls? And you know what they say about dogs looking like their owners...

Australian Shepherd

Perfect, your dog is a replacement for a girlfriend! Too bad you couldn't get pretty hair and blue eyes from a real person. Honestly, your Australian Shepherd is likely smarter than you, and bats their pretty eyes for more treats. Sorry to break it to you buddy, but Fluffy plays you like a fiddle, and that twenty you lost last week went to your dog's running away fund. Maybe get a Chihuahua or something that will actually treat you right.

Shih Tzu

The name says it all, however, Emily Weybright (10) reveals the truth behind Shih Tzus. As an owner of one, she says that "he's really annoying because every so often he will pee or poop in my room, and of all the house he only does it in there and occasionally vomits as well and he's just stinky like fresh out of the bath he still stinks, he can be cute sometimes but I feel bad for him because he can barely see and we think he's going deaf but like dude just don't pee and poop in the room that's yucky".

The TMZ Story of...

written an
KATE

How did the Easter Bunny come to oversee Easter eggs? It makes no sense, bunnies don't lay eggs! Chickens lay eggs in the spring—it's always been this way. Lucky for you, I know the full story, and I'm ready to share it with the world.

Once upon a time, some artistic, ill-mannered, unsupervised, troublemaking chicks were out causing chaos when they stumbled upon some unhatched chicken eggs. They had been searching for a medium for their art for so long, and this was their opportunity. While the parents of the chickens were out having some drinks at the local pub, the egg heist occurred. The clan of immature chicks stole the unhatched eggs, believing no one had witnessed the crime and confident that they would not get caught. However, a bunch of shifty bunnies saw it all go down. Luckily for the clan of chickens, the bunnies didn't think much of it, believing that the chickens were cousins of the unhatched, or maybe they were babysitting the eggs while the parents were out enjoying their freedom before being locked down. The bunnies minded their own business and didn't make a peep... pun intended. Although the chickens ran with the eggs, they had no heinous intentions. All they wanted was for a blank slate for them to express themselves on (Emotional, expressive, rebellious teenagers take every chance they get for others to listen to their problems and their opinions.) The whiteness of the unhatched eggs served as their canvas, as a way to express their minds. They just wanted somewhere to put their art that people would notice, craving the attentions of others. And notice they did. Police investigations were launched, and flyers were posted. The thought that someone would steal the eggs of another enraged the chick community.

By the next day, however, the chicks returned the eggs to their nest, surprising everyone. Upon examining the eggs, the community's shock grew. Yes, they were still unhatched, and they did not seem harmed, but the more the community looked at them, the more horror came across their faces. The eggs were covered in drawings! These drawings were considered offensive and inappropriate to other chickens, as they were indeed drawn on by the offspring of another chicken, but to you and me, they were simply soft pastel colors and "spring" themed art. The chickens, who were happy to have their eggs back, decided not to continue the investigation. While the chickens continued to hate the designs on their eggs, the humans began to obsess over the soft pastel colors. The eggs quickly blew up in the human media.

The Easter Bunny

gned by
NER

Now, let's fall back for a second. Remember the bunnies who saw it all go down? The ones who did not make a peep over the theft? Well, they realized what a breakthrough this could be for an underrated species and wanted their five seconds of fame. They knew the chicks who had stolen and decorated the eggs would never step up to the spotlight, as it would undoubtedly result in extensive grounding by the chick's parents. The next time the humans came around to take a few snapshots of the eggs and interview the chickens to find out the mastermind behind the designs, the bunnies stepped up. The bunnies stated they had done the immaculate art on the eggs, and before long, the story blew up on every media outlet you could imagine. The Kardashians (their great, great, great, great, grandparents—obviously) even weighed in on their love for the bunnies' art. All the humans engulfed themselves in the story, believing that such a cute, fluffy and innocent animal made soft pastel and beautiful pieces of art. The humans began to believe that the bunnies made the art as they did, sparking the renaissance of the new birth of art. Some said that the bunnies wanted to show their true artistic colors. The bunnies, of course, did not deny any of these stories, taking their fame and hopping with it. Before long, the bunnies had inspired the world around them to decorate their own eggs, starting the Easter tradition and forming the Holiday around the creative, sweet and innocent bunnies.

Just like that, the Easter bunny tale was born.

In the years since this tradition began, the bunnies and all their kin became filthy rich. To this day, they still do brand deals with all kinds of companies.

So, as Easter approaches, enjoy those eggs, decorate them till your heart's content, admire those cute bunnies in your yard, but maybe send a thought out for those chickens who had their eggs chick-napped all those years ago.

INTRO

Three score and two years ago, our forefathers founded the Spartana with the intention of exercising free speech. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, president of the United States of America with a lot on his mind, is best known for commenting at our birth that "the printing press was waiting for a newspaper worthy of being printed, one that served as an extension of the free world." The Spartana has since continued to receive high praise from organizations, foreign officials, and influencers.

From our humble beginnings in a janitor's closet armed only with a printer and a stapler to a skyscraper in Manhattan with a beautiful view of an urban parking garage, the Spartana has always been able to function, even with inconsistent decrease and increase in members. This is why it pains us to be the bearer of bad news: the Spartana is being shut down. Therefore, we have one, last glaring message:

SAVE THE SPARTANA

written and designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

This one, we hope you listen to. Indubitably, the main question you have is why. Unless you have never read a Spartana before, which is entirely possible. In such a case, I would suggest perusing a previous Spartana, or simply looking at the pictures. Regardless, there are several factors that contributed to this decision by the administration, and I will outline the ones that are most prevalent below.

MONEY.

In theory, money is supposed to be distributed equally among teachers, extracurriculars, the arts, and sports. The problem lies within the word 'theory'. In a theoretical world, there would be no need for an open-air ceiling, but we do not live in that timeline. For the Spartana, the timeline that we exist in, monthly issues cost thousands of dollars, and our budget runs dry easily. Funded by a portion of book fees that every student pays, and some from the administration's scraps, we can either afford to print quality news or maintain our environment.

The publications room exists in a dark, damp passage inside of the school, resigned to the dredges of common society. Said room's thermostat always reads -5 degrees, however most alarming are the yearbooks taped together to hold up an American flag teetering on the edge, and the particularly strange stains blooming beneath our very feet. We requested a little more money to improve our living quarters, and instead we were cut.

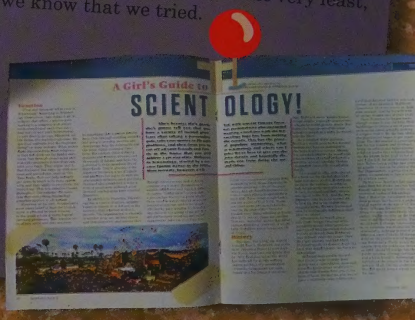
CENSORSHIP & PROPAGANGA.

The creation of the Internet was a mistake; at least, according to the school board and most of the world's population. Back in the day, the school district could get away with anything: corruption, money laundering schemes, being moles, insider trading, etc. Nowadays, anyone can do a simple Google search and find this information on their own. Or at the very least, they used to be able to.

Through the school district's new rampage of censoring information about their dirty dealings and a barrage of propaganda, the administration has taken over the school's Internet. All media must first be vetted by the district, then filled with subliminal messaging, and finally shown school-wide. The last vehicle of truth left at Homestead was the one publication that no one knew had a website, least of all its own staff. We thought that we were invincible. Unfortunately, the district decided it was better to shut us down entirely, rather than prop us up as another form of Homestead propaganda.

UNIONIZATION.

Due to the budget cuts that we had to endure, our newspaper staff unanimously decided to form a union to bargain for our rights. Unfortunately, labor unions are often seen unfavorably by an employer, and all of our strikes and movements backfired on us. In the way that the Oscars was created as a way to prevent filmmakers from forming unions, we are being shut down to prevent labor unions from forming in all high schools across the nation. Although we might have failed to champion for our rights, at the very least, we know that we tried.



CALL TO ACTION

It is for these three reasons that the Spartana is being shut down. It is important to recognize that this is not out of our volition, but because a larger entity is spearheading it. Now that you have heard our side of the story, compared to the absolute radio silence the district has given you, I have questions of my own to ask of you.

Do you support the authoritarianism of our dictators that have controlled us for an incredibly long time? Do you support truth-seekers and the power of the free press? Is tasting the sweet juice of liberty more important than drinking the prison juice that is government-sanctioned? More importantly, are you willing to perform your civic duty?

We at the Spartana refuse to be shut down without a fight. If we go down, we go down swinging, scratching, kicking, and other synonyms for particularly violent actions. As the Spartana staff wages their own war with the administration, there are things that you can do to support our efforts.

1 Tell your Friends! Tell the whole world about the injustice that we have faced at the hands of the administration. In fact, everytime you enter a public place, stand on the nearest table and recite a prepared speech. If you find yourself in a public bathroom, even better: pummel your fists against every stall door and jiggle the stall handles! Anything to make people more aware of our unfortunate situation and to bring them to act.

2 Sign our Petition! This is the easiest and most efficient way to display your support for our cause. Mass-signing an online petition to show the district and the community how you feel is a surefire way to get our voices heard. Once signing, make sure to share with all of your friends and family.
Here's the link to our petition: https://www.change.org/SavetheSpartana

3 Donate money! Unfortunately, the Spartana has a visible lack of a Paypal or Google Pay account, and our prehistoric fund is unable to handle an NFT or any form of cryptocurrency as payment, so donations must be in the form of cold, hard cash. To donate, email ganga.subramanian@students.sacs.k12.in.us and we can take care of any payment. If you're worried about security, don't be.

3.5 NFT? However, if you would like to support the Spartana and receive something in return, consider one of our homemade Homestead NFT's, locally sourced by a Spartana writer and designer. Turn back to page 9 for more information or email hannah.shaw@students.sacs.k12.in.us. I would like to reiterate that the Spartana does not accept an NFT as currency.

4 Send Letters to Legislation! If enough Homestead students handwrite notes to our local senators and Congress members, they cannot ignore the Spartana's pleas to reinstate the school newspaper. Bombard every politician you know, regardless of local, state, or federal affiliations with beautiful calligraphy and prose, ensuring that we have their support.

THE FINAL CONCLUSION

Homestead's freedom of speech, press and assembly are under constant attack, not just by Collegeboard, but by our very own school district and administration. You must ask, not what the Spartana can do for you, but what you can do for the Spartana, and what you can do is to employ one of the above methods to support us in our fight for Democratic values.

This is our last issue, filled with final articles and the last words of ours that you will ever read. We hope that you have enjoyed these months as much as we have. To viewers like you, thank you.

Check out our past issues on hhsspartana.com

the Spartana

Issue 8 May 2022

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cover and table of contents designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

LEDITOR

(LETTER FROM THE EDITORS)

DEAR READER,

As we rapidly tumble towards finals week and everything we have been working desperately towards will finally reach its culmination, it is a good time to reflect on the past year.

We have witnessed the continual growth of the Spartana, the flourishing creativity of the student journalists that make up its staff and the creation of a new tradition in the form of an April Fool's satire issue. Throughout our eight issues, we aimed to strike a balance between informing our readers and providing a refuge of entertainment. In the midst of all this, we have increasingly realized that we do not have the capacity to cover all the issues that are important to the student body. However, that can all change. We want YOU, the reader, to join the Spartana staff. If this is not possible, but you find yourself saddled with a deep craving for the journalistic arts, contact us! We want to hear your responses, your reactions and most of all, your criticisms. We welcome letters to the editors at hhsspartanastaff@gmail.com.

With less than a month left of this school year, it is not only a time to reflect but a time of looking forward to what awaits–summer break. A glorious three months devoid of the stressors and dredges of an academic school year. However you choose to spend your summer break, whether on a faraway beach or spending the day asleep, remember that you have earned your rest. The Spartana will be waiting for you when you get back.

MADELINE PHUONG & GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

Find the hidden graduation caps for a $15 Amazon gift card! Email the locations and page numbers of all the hidden graphics to hhsspartanastaff@gmail.com.

Happy Mother's Day

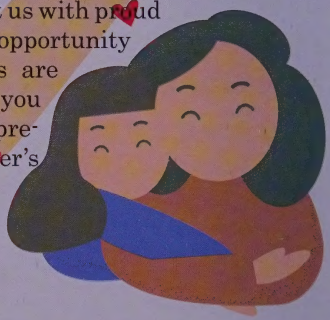
written and designed by
ALESSIA PASSONI

Mother's Day dates back to 1914 when it became an official holiday. Tracing back to the ancient Greeks and Rome, festivals were held in honor of their goddesses, Rhea and Cybele. This sparked an idea in a young woman named Anna Jarvis, who came up with a day to honor mothers. She started a club in West Virginia before the Civil War to teach mothers how to properly care for their children. Her club was known as "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" and often worked with Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

In addition to that, did you know more phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day? Mothers are truly incredible. Often, they think their efforts are unnoticed, but they are not. Their day-to-day responsibilities amplify with children, who don't always fully appreciate their mothers with their whole hearts. Mothers constantly deal with hassle, attitude and disrespect in exchange for their love and kind efforts. Their ability to love and care for their children is inspirational and amazing, especially in times of difficulty, distress and sadness. The little lessons they teach us as we grow up amount to so much more later in life. We often forget how special mothers are. Mothers aren't perfect, but they try their best in everything they do. They look out for their children, even if that means sacrificing things for themselves. Not only that, but they will put their lives on the line for their children. Mothers are often not fully appreciated.

If you need gift ideas for your mother this Mother's Day, the best gift would be a handwritten card expressing the amount of love and appreciation you have for her. If you want to get her something more tangible, consider some bath bombs or favorite soaps as a nice thoughful gift.

Never forget how resilient mothers are. If you get the chance, hug your mother tightly and thank them for everything they have done for you. Mothers are truly inspiring and look out for your best interest. They look forward to seeing who you will become in the future. They once held our hands across the street, making sure we were safe with each step. Now they look as we step forward with our lives. They look at us with proud eyes, grateful for the opportunity to raise us. Mothers are amazing and I hope you get the chance to appreciate yours this Mother's Day.



Graphics courtesy of Canva

Final Exams Bell Schedule

TUESDAY, MAY 24

Period 1 Class – 7:45 – 8:38 (53 min)

Period 2 EXAM – 8:44 – 10:14 (90 min)

Period 3 Class/Lunch – 10:20 – 12:01

A Lunch.....10:14 - 10:41
Class.....10:46 - 12:01

Class.....10:20 - 10:41
B Lunch.....10:41 - 11:08
Class.....11:13 - 12:01

Class.....10:20 - 11:08
C Lunch.....11:08 - 11:35
Class.....11:40 - 12:01

Class.....10:20 - 11:35
D Lunch.....11:35 - 12:01

Period 5 EXAM – 12:07 – 1:37 (90 min)

Period 6 Class – 1:43 – 2:35 (52 min)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

Period 1 EXAM – 7:45 – 9:15 (90 min)

Period 3 EXAM – 9:21 – 10:51 (90 min)

Period 4 Class/Lunch – 10:57 – 12:38

A Lunch.....10:51 - 11:18
Class.....11:23 - 12:38

Class.....10:57 - 11:18
B Lunch.....11:18 - 11:45
Class.....11:50 - 12:38

Class.....10:57 - 11:45
C Lunch.....11:45 - 12:12
Class.....12:17 - 12:38

Class.....10:57 - 12:12
D Lunch.....12:12 - 12:38

Period 6 EXAM – 12:44 – 2:14 (90 min)

Period 7 Class – 2:20 – 2:35 (15 min)

THURSDAY, MAY 26

Period 4 EXAM – 7:45 – 9:25 (100 min w/ computer return)

Period 7 EXAM – 9:31 – 11:11 (100 min w/ computer return)

Dismissal – 11:11 am

designed by
MADELINE PHUONG

THE GREAT SPARTANA BAKING SHOW

written and designed by
ISABELLA AMBROSE

The Great British Baking Show is the epiome of baking shows. Have you even lived if you haven't binged it? The popular show first aired in 2010 and has had 12 seasons so far. As of 2020, it was the fifth-most streamed show in America. It also has a spin off series, Junior Bake Off.

I've always thought it would be entertaining to try recipes from the show because I personally believe that I'm just as good as the contestants. So, I scoured the official Great British Baking Show website for recipes that would challenge my baking skills, but not make me look like a fool. All of the recipes are rated on a 1-3 scale and to make things interesting I chose recipes with the rating of 2, or as the website calls them, in the "needs skill" range. The first recipe I chose was Liam Charles's Salted Caramel Chocolate Tart. It was featured in the Junior Bake Off. The second recipe I chose was Paul Hollywood's Pineapple Upside-down Cakes.

My plan is to bake the recipes like they do in the show within the time allocated and then have my family rate my bakes. To keep things fair, I have not made either of these recipes before.

I don't know if you have ever baked a British recipe before, but all of the ingredients are in grams or milliliters. The milliliters are no problem, but converting grams to something more "average baker friendly" is absolutely horrid. All I have are cups, half cups, etc, and some mediocre math skills (which should be obvious; I take journalism as an elective), so the conversions were a little difficult.

Salted Caramel Chocolate Tart

Once I finished the conversions, I started with the chocolate tart. The first step is to make ganache. I don't know about you, but I think the word ganache is intimidating. However, I was pleasantly surprised because the ganache was one of the best things I've ever made. It took all I had in me not to eat it all before I even got it on the tart. The next few steps involve buttering a pan and blending some graham crackers for the crust. The recipe calls for a nine-inch fluted tart tin and surprisingly, I don't have one (who does?), so I used a regular nine-inch cake pan. For steps six and seven, I made caramel for the center of the tart. I've never made caramel before either, but it went surprisingly well. The recipe states that you have to "quickly and carefully pour the double cream into the pan and swirl to combine." Assuming that I would splash the boiling caramel on myself or ruin it, I tried my best to pour the double cream very carefully.

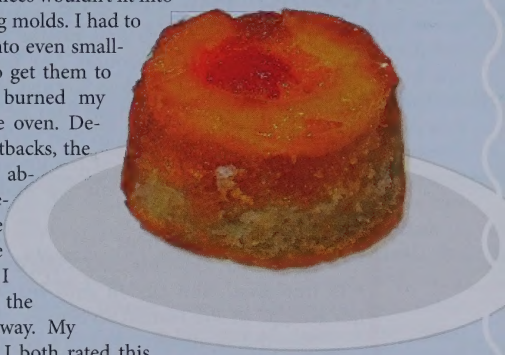
I made my grandma, who was "helping" me, burst out laughing because apparently pouring cold cream into a pot of boiling caramel creates a huge cloud of steam. Once my little magic trick was over, I assembled the tart and stuck it in the freezer (which ended up being a bad idea because the tart froze). Overall, here's how I did:

The recipe said hands on time was one hour. I finished it in an hour and a half. I was close. My family gave me an average rating of 8.5/10 for the tart. Their reasoning was that it was frozen and therefore almost impossible to eat. They said they enjoyed it once it thawed, though. Would I have won a round on the show with this recipe? Probably not, because I wouldn't have been finished in time. Despite that, I am impressed with myself.

Pineapple Upside Down Cakes

The second recipe I am tackling is the pineapple upside down cake. I was a little too confident in my skill after the first recipe. To begin with, I only had two pudding molds instead of six, so I had to make two cakes at a time. The first step involves making a "golden, caramel syrup" after boiling water and sugar for four minutes. It took me over 40 minutes, which is nearly all of the time that the contestants have, to make the syrup completely.

In the meantime, I cut the pineapple and made the actual cake. I was a little suspicious of the sponge cake because the texture looked strange. However, that sponge was the absolute best thing I have ever eaten in my entire life. I would have eaten the entire bowl of batter if salmonella wasn't a thing. One thing that wasn't amazing was that the pineapple slices wouldn't fit into the pudding molds. I had to cut them into even smaller pieces to get them to fit. I also burned my arm on the oven. Despite my setbacks, the cakes were absolutely delicious once they were finished. I ate two of the six right away. My family and I both rated this recipe a 9/10, however this recipe took longer than the website said it would.



After my adventures in the world of the Great British Baking Show, I'm convinced that I could go on the show and not go home on the first round. If it were up to me, I would be winning the entire thing.

Try out the recipes!

Chocolate Caramel Tart

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

The Adventures of Jolean and the Magic Eraser

To my dear brothers:

Chapter Ten: The End

written and illustrated by
KATELYN STYBORSKI
designed by Thomas Hill

With trembling legs and hoarse breaths, Jolean collapsed on the ground, her hair splayed out around her. Smiley rushed toward her, his matching skirt whooshing behind him in a soft display of ruffles. He knelt next to her, ignoring how the pebbles cut into the skin of his knees. Gently, the boy lifted her head into his lap and stroked her forehead.

"Jolean? Can you hear me?"

"We did it," she breathed, "We won." Her eyelids fluttered. She curled into herself, shifting her weight so she leaned on Smiley more.

"You did it, Jolean. You always do." Smiley smiled.

Jolean sighed deeply, inhaling what she imagined to be magic in the air. It drifted over her skin, sparking and flashing with every goosebump and hair it met along the way. It washed over her face, warm and prickly, like the feeling of fireworks exploding above children in a pool. Every bone of her body was heavy with exhaustion, and yet...she felt alive with energy as well.

She opened her dark eyes to meet Smiley's. "Are you going to tell me your story now?"

Smiley threw his head back in laughter, and Jolean wondered if he meant to cry. His freckles were emphasized from the color of his cheeks, and his lips quivered with anticipation. The air crackled around them.

"Jolean, my story is so unbearably long."

"We have all the time in the world." And she moved so she was laying on his chest, her arms curled around his sides. "We're safe here, aren't we?"

"Thanks to you, we are. But not forever."

The tire swing rocked back and forth in the sweet, cool wind that ran its fingers through the grass on the edge of the ditch. Yellow and red leaves floated softly down to the ground, floating over the pillbugs and ants which scuttled over the thick roots of the tree. Jolean's skin seemed to glow in the mottled lighting streaming through the scattered leaves. Smiley's head rested in her lap, his pink hair fell over her legs. She was braiding flowers into it--daisies, violets and daffodils.

"So, Mr. Prince. How does it feel having your human body back?"

Smiley stretched his arms out like a cat. "Ah, much better. Though I do miss being small enough to fit in your pocket." He winked at her.

"You were a cute eraser, that's for sure."

"I'm still cute!"

"You are." She planted a kiss on his forehead. "I only have cute best friends."

They were quiet for a moment, enjoying the chirping birds and the rustling of the grass. The stream flowed by next to them, a gentle hiss audible as it trickled through the ditch.

"Smiley?"

"Yes?"

"You can't stay forever, can you?"

He rolled onto his stomach, the flower-filled braids tickled his chin. "I'm a stagnant being, Jolean. I don't age, as you know. I've done this all before. So yes, technically I can stay forever."

"But not with me."

"Not this version of you, anyway."

Jolean's hands fidgeted with her skirt. "Then does it really count? If I don't remember it? And if you're fuzzy on the details? Did it really happen? And if it's happened so many times before, then what does this one matter? Surely there are better versions of

Jolean out there."

Smiley cupped her face in his hands, observing how her nose dipped down at the end, toward her lips.

"You're not wrong. But there are also worse versions of you, too. And besides, I picked you to spend time with right now." He pressed their foreheads together. "You matter to me, Jolean. Not you from a past reality, not you from a future one. You. I have infinite timelines to choose from. And I picked you. Doesn't that mean something?"

Bright, blobby tears dripped from her cheeks and the tip of her nose.

"It does," she whispered, pushing their faces closer together.

The flower petals flew from his braids. He pulled her close, clutching to her clothes and her hair. She held him with the same fierceness, suffocating in her sorrow. He drew back from her with severe effort. Smiley's face was overcome with grief, yet still no tears came.

"Smiley," she shouted as the world seemed to grow louder around them, building up to a roar that she braced herself to hear. "Why can't you cry?!"

The feeling rose into their throats, the roar threatening to break loose. The wind picked up with ferocity, shaking the limbs of the tree so leaves swirled around them in the air. Swinging wildly in the wind, their hair whipped about their face--Smiley's looked like a halo. Intensely, magic prickled over Jolean like static. She could taste the sparks--pink and yellow.

"Answer me, while you still have time!"

"I'll never have enough time to tell you how sorry I am!" He yelled back at her, his words barely audible over the roar of the wind.

They stood at odds from each other, face to face, with their fingers wound around the other's wrists as tightly as they could bear.

"Sorry for what? You've done nothing wrong!"

"I'm sorry for leaving! I promise I don't want to."

"Then stay!" She cried, throwing herself into his arms.

The world froze for a moment, the two intertwined in a swirl of color and emotion. Smiley squinted as if he had tears to struggle to see through. Jolean stared back earnestly, with real tears falling from her eyes.

"It's not my choice to stay."

"Then whose is it?" She knocked her head against the firmness of his chest.

Smiley took a daffodil from his hair and delicately placed it behind her ear. He smiled bittersweetly, brushing a thumb over her cheek. "It's yours, Jolean."

"I'd never have you leave me," she whispered.

He pet her head, tenderly.

"Will I ever see you again, Smiley?"

"Of course. Everyday."

The boy reached up and plucked a yellow leaf from the gnarled tree branch above them. He rubbed it between his palms, breathing life into it. Slowly building up intensity, the wind whizzed around them, wild and wondrous. Colors swished around them with a vibrancy that Jolean had never seen before. She followed the purple bullet with her arm, twisting and dancing in the trajectory of the wind. Yellow soared over her head, bathing her face in a warmth not even the sun could rival. Pink and blue tumbled over each other as they raced toward her outstretched hand. She caught them, laughing through the tears, and she tossed them above her head. They collided with red in a glorious splash of paint, covering the edges of other colors, until the edges of the previous colors were tinged with their complement. Orange streaked across the field, rushing to its place in the rainbow of wind. Jolean spun in a circle, her arms outstretched. She finally turned to Smiley, who was cradling something in his tan hands.

She wiped the tears from her eyes, finally, and placed her hands behind her back. Smiley was smiling down at his treasure, intent on building up suspense, Jolean was sure.

"Smiley?"

His face broke into a wide, toothy smile with one look at her. She was glowing. "I have a gift for you-"

"Before you go."

"Before I go."

She outstretched her hands and he gently placed his creation in her cupped palms. Jolean peeked in and-

"Oh, Smiley," her voice wavered. "Thank you."

In her hands, she held an exact replica of Smiley--the eraser, that is. The two bright eyes stared up at her with tenderness. The wide, beaming smile held an expression of joy she could only hope to feel. She looked up at him, tears brimming at the corners of her eyes.

"You can call on me whenever you need me. But I can't promise to stay for long."

"I'm sure your princely duties are very demanding." She teased him, elbowing his ribcage.

Smiley scooped her up into his arms like a knight holding a princess. "They are! But I have fun."

She faked a pout. "You'd have more fun with me."

He touched their noses together. "I would. But I'm not usually given breaks. So you can only use it for emergencies."

"I promise not to annoy you." She ruffled his hair. "I'm gonna miss you. Alot."

"I know," Smiley smirked. "I'll miss you too, Jolean."

He set her back on the ground.

"Goodbye, Smiley."

"Goodbye."

And with that, in a dazzling swirl of magic and colors, and his tell-tale pink flash, Smiley disappeared.

Jolean stood under the tree, brushing her fingers over the eraser that started it all. She looked up at the sky and realized that, woven in the clouds, were the colors that had danced with her before. She took a breath, and magic met her nose with a stunning splendore she hadn't felt before.

It kissed her pink cheeks, it combed through her sleek, dark hair. Magic surrounded her. It was scattered across the ground, every blade of grass; it was soaked into the bark of every tree, every leaf was endowed with a vibrancy it had never expressed before. The sun had never been so bright, the air never so fresh, the world never so lovely as she now saw it. The very tips of her ears and soles of her feet buzzed with elation.

Over the crest of the hill, she saw the top of Dimitri's blond hair peek over the grassy mound. His hair swayed with his gait, and his face shone in the newly-colored world. Once he spotted her, he began to wave and quickened his pace to meet her.

Oh the stories she would tell him when he returned to her! The lovely magic eraser she met, and all of their adventures while he was away.

She threw up her hands and laughed, loud and musically. Even her laughter shimmered with saturated delight. It dropped from her lips and spilled out into the world around her, coating everything in a glaze of merriment. Jolean spun around with the pink eraser gaily. Magic had returned to the world!

And Jolean was so amazed, because she had let the magic touch her heart.

So, my dearest brothers, as you can see, the human world is still stable at the moment. However, creatures are escaping. Whil we succeeded in luring one back to its horrific realm, I fear more will flow into this world than those that will return. We mus find a way to permanently close the portal--no matter the cost. Otherwise, the human realm faces total annihilation. As we ar each well aware, the destruction caused by these creatures will not stop there, and they will eventually leak into our realm if give enough time to fester. I urge you two to aid me in my mission. Help me save my people. Help me save Jolean.

Magic has made contact with the humans; don't let it destroy their world as it did ours.

-Smiley

Dreams: A Mystery

written by
LUKE GAYER
designed by LUKE GAYER & KAIYA CRONKHITE

The mind is an incredibly interesting thing. Item? Organ? It's a bit difficult to fully understand and comprehend the mind. One of the most incredible things that the mind can do is dream. What is the purpose of dreams? Why do we have dreams? Do they mean anything? There are a lot of questions surrounding dreams, and I thought it might be fascinating to answer some of these questions and share my own personal experiences.

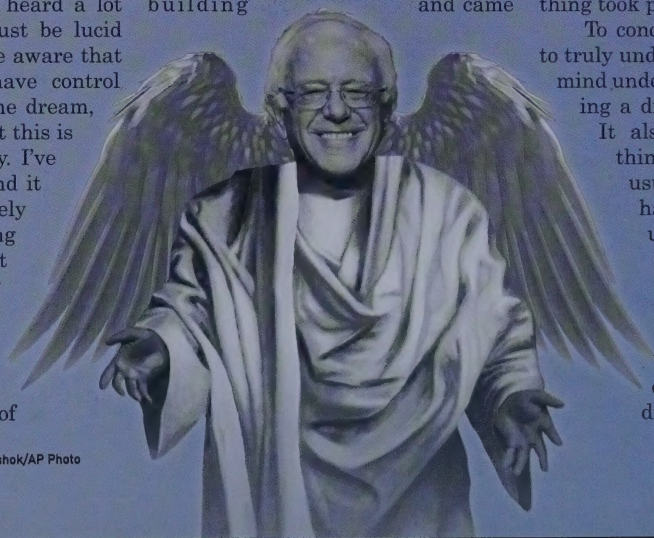
Unfortunately, there is not one widely agreed upon reason for the purpose of dreams and their meaning. Some theories are that dreams help deal with emotional trauma in life, help with survival, exercise creativity or store memories. There's also many factors that influence dreams such as health, food and even exercise.

Based on my own experiences, I've always enjoyed dreaming. It's an activity unlike any other. You can do anything you want, be anything you want and experience unimaginable things. However, I think I might experience dreams differently from everyone else. I always kind of know that I'm dreaming. I've heard a lot of people say that I must be lucid dreaming, where you are aware that you're dreaming and have control over what happens in the dream, but I would disagree that this is the case for me personally. I've lucid dreamed before, and it is something completely different. This is knowing that I'm dreaming, but I just don't do anything about it because I'm curious about what might happen.

Anyways, it's interesting to highlight some of my most memorable dreams. I once had a dream where I was at a party with hundreds of attendees. It wasn't a high school or college type party but more a high society or elite party with the most intelligent or famous people in the world. All kinds of people were at the party such as actors and politicians. Bernie Sanders was present, and there's actually a constant trend of him appearing in my dreams. My subconscious knows when I am not doing well and for some weird reason, single-handedly decided that Bernie would be my subconscious guardian angel. He's appeared on three separate occasions in my dreams so far. The first was when I had an extremely high fever, and every person was Bernie. The next took place on a subway where he had a conversation with me and gave me some tips to better myself. Finally, the most recent took place in the elite party dream where he gave me a smile and we both waved to each other. I continued to walk throughout this party; dazzling lights surrounded me with people clinking their glasses and having fun. Suddenly, I exited the building and came face-to-face with Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter. They were sitting next to a fence with an oval table placed in front of them. Jimmy Carter was reading a newspaper, he looked about 15 years younger than his current age and was very relaxed. Carter is one of my personal heroes, so I had to greet him. I said hello to him, he looked up with his classic smile, and we had a small conversation. It wasn't some fantastic dream, but it was an enjoyable one.

I've tended to have dreams where I converse with important people in my life or who I look up to. Like the dream with Carter, it's not some kind of crazy, unbelievable thing. It's almost like casual dreaming. One of the wackier dreams I've had was where a nuclear and or zombie apocalypse began, and I had to stay with my TV Broadcasting class for like five years. It was extremely vivid. I can recall pretty much every detail. The moss growing down the decrepit building we stayed in, the panic and chaos that arose after everything started going down and the layout of the weird, alternate town that everything took place in.

To conclude, dreams are a path to truly understanding yourself. Your mind understands when you're having a difficult or troubling time. It also helps you experience things you'd never be able to usually experience. You can have dreams ranging from unimaginable adventures to mundane conversations. They can brighten up your life. They can change the way you look at life. However, nothing could ever come close to dreaming.



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PUBLIC PLAYLIST

Summer Captured in Songs

A summer playlist for you to enjoy:)

kate.hutner • 1 like • 46 songs, 2 hr 52 min

Custom order

#	TITLE	ALBUM	DATE ADDED	
1	Down the Line Beach Fossils	Somersault	20 days ago	2:38
2	Parking Lots Plums	Jen	20 days ago	3:26
3	Marcel Her's	Marcel	20 days ago	3:08
4	Passed You By Chicano Batman	Freedom Is Free	20 days ago	3:28
5	Tangerine Tim Atlas	Tangerine	20 days ago	2:56
6	The W.A.N.D. E The Flaming Lips	At War with the Mystics	20 days ago	3:43
7	198 Hundred Visions	Spite	20 days ago	3:18
8	Freaking Out the Neighbo... Mac DeMarco	2	20 days ago	2:54
9	The Raft Fat Freddy's Drop	Dr. Boondigga & The Big ...	20 days ago	7:11
10	Disco Surf Curse	Heaven Surrounds You	20 days ago	2:33
11	Sol Del Sur Sun Room	Sol Del Sur	20 days ago	2:25

A Few Songs For...

Spending Time With Friends
Take It or Leave It by Cage the Elephant
Someday by The Strokes
Ancient Walls of Flowers by Marcy Playground
And Your Bird Can Sing by The Beatles

Watching the Clouds Pass By
Fingertips by The Brian Jonestown Massacre
Innerspace by The Apples In Stereo
Congratulations by MGMT

A Day for Yourself
To Sheila by The Smashing Pumpkins
Anemone by The Brian Jonestown Massacre
All I Wanna Do by The Beach Boys

A Night for Smores & a Bonefire
Peace Frog by The Doors
Strange Brew by Cream
All Your Love by John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers
Funk #49 by James Gang

A Concert in the Car
American Boy by Estelle, Kanye West
Hey Ya by Outkast
Unwritten by Natasha Bedingfield
Paper Planes by MIA

Feeling like you are in a Teen-Angst Movie
Scratchyard Lanyard by Dry Cleaning
Shine On You Crazy Diamond by Pink Floyd
Alison by Slowdive
Somebody That I Used To Know by Gotye, Kimbra
Siin by Habibi

Groovin'
Arrow Through Me by The Wings
Girlfriend Is Better by Talking Heads
DARE by Gorillaz
Lavender Buds by MF DOOM

Graphics courtesy of Sage

Great Teachers

written and designed by
CLAIRE ELLIOTT

When I was in elementary school, I had many expectations for high school. Most of them were absurd, misguided and entirely unrealistic. I particularly remember thinking that the lunchroom was socially sectored and that lockers were of great importance. I can thank (or blame) "Hannah Montana" for that.

However, one expectation was undeniably fulfilled. Whether it was accidental or intentional, I learned. The county's tax dollars paid off; I have accumulated knowledge in math, science, English and the delicacies of teenage awkwardness. Whereas my peers provided the latter, my teachers gave me the former. Not only have instructors prepared me for the world with basic knowledge, but they also gave me fond memories and wise advice to look back upon.

So, as I pass on from Homestead after a seemingly eternal four year investment, I think it is only fair to recognize a few of those teachers who are truly great—the teachers who have been here for much longer than four years and have helped many like me pass through.

While the greatness of an individual is often defined by his or her accomplishments, it can also be measured by his or her intentions. One reason these teachers are so great is because each one of them has a purpose; not one written on their job description, but one written by themselves.

Counselor Amy Hamilton, for example, focuses on her personal relationships with students.

"The first thing I wanna do is establish a relationship with my students so that they can trust me, that they know this is a safe place to come to. I'm not here to discipline, I'm not a parent and I'm not anybody who's going to judge them either," Hamilton said.

Ultimately, Hamilton's priority is to help us. Truthfully, when I was a cynical little freshman, I believed that my guidance counselor did not care for me. As a senior, I can now recognize that this perception is completely untrue. In her own words, "I just hope that I make (my students) better people and that they will go out in the world one day and will give it back to someone else."

Similarly to Hamilton, math teacher Brandon Shramek wants his students to feel recognized. Those who had Shramek as a teacher can certainly attest that he does so. While math is always the priority of class, sportive conversation and playful nicknames are always pleasurable additions.

For Jason Beer, his purpose lies in introducing students to positive experiences with writing.

"I hope in my Travel Writing class and the new Novel and Screenwriting class that students have the opportunity to pursue projects and writing assignments that (they) are genuinely excited about," Beer said. I have taken neither of these courses, but Beer has still managed to inspire me to write more creatively.

All of these teachers have inspired me (and many others) in one way or another. As a result, I will leave high school not only as an educated citizen capable of voting, but also as someone who is excited for the world.

While said educators have evidently excelled at educating, many of them did not begin their adult lives with teaching in mind.

For instance, AP Unisted States History and Sociology teacher Kara Squires got her undergraduate degree in History.

"When I graduated, I didn't really know what I wanted to do, and with a history degree it's a little limited. So, I took some time to think about that and worked for The Journal Gazette, the morning newspaper here in Fort Wayne, and I worked there for about six years as a librarian. During that time I didn't really feel very fulfilled, so I went back to school and got my teaching credentials and thought that was kind of a good pairing with my history background," Squires said.

Like Squires, Hamilton did not decide to work in education until later in life. She officially started counseling when she was thirty-one. Beer, on the other hand, began teaching relatively early in his life, although he majored in both business and nursing before finally settling on English. From there, he worked for Teach for America in Los Angeles and Chicago while earning his teaching degree.

All of these teachers arrived at their jobs in different ways and for different reasons. Each of them also takes something different from their careers.

Mr. Beer appreciates his students' flexible moods and mentalities.

"It's just refreshing—the humility and the willingness to consider another viewpoint. They're willing to listen to what someone else is saying. They're willing to work with others who look different, or maybe believe different, or live very different lives outside of these walls," Beer said.

Whereas Beer respects our humility, Squires and Shramek take note of our multitasking.

"I think (in) a lot of ways they've helped me be a better parent because I see things from their perspective. I think they've helped me be

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF CLAIRE ELLIOTT

a better human because I can see their perspective in the world. They've grown up differently than I have... I see that we're all still trying to make the grades, and there's a lot of tension, and that's impacted how I am as a teacher, how I look at assignments and when they're due, and how that plays a role in (the) six or seven other classes they take, and art, and music, and the sports and all the things. So, I think when I really look at how students have impacted me, they've made me a better person," Squires said.

Just as Squires believes that her character and understanding have grown from her relationships with her students, I believe that I have grown from my relationship with her. All of these teachers and many more have gifted me with knowledge in the academic sphere and beyond. I learned to see the world in a lens other than my own, and I saw the invaluable importance of human connection. Every conversation with those around us (especially those more acquainted with life than us) is an opportunity to brighten not only our day, but also our perspective.

Great Advice

Mrs. Squires:

"At the risk of how this will sound, say yes. Say yes to the new, and say yes to the universe because it will come back to you tenfold. The more you say yes to experiences and new friends and even reading material, you will find more enjoyment in life, and you will realize that the world is your oyster."

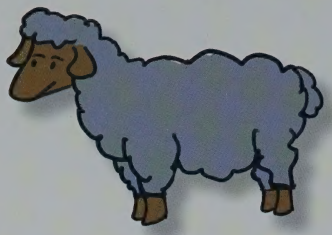
Mr. Beer:

"I was someone who struggled seeing the big picture and seeing that when things happen, it's not the end of the world. I would wish I had mo patience or a bigger worldview, and I think maybe that came fro leaving home. I feel like at some point, it's essential to leave home begin to figure out what it is tha you believe yourself, and not just what your parents believe or you community believes. You may en up eventually believing all those things, but that you found it out yourself."

Mrs. Hamilton:

"Trust yourself, but take some risks. Take the road not taken - that's an allusion to my favorite poem by Robert Frost. So if there's a path that you didn't think you'd want to go down, but it's presenting itself, maybe you can take that risk, and you go down that path, and you explore and find a way to give back to your environment to help others. I mean, we've got to help each other in this world."

THE GRID



CLAIRE ELLIOTT

A VINTAGE STORE

GAIA SPLENDORE

INVENT SOMETHING FOR A PROBLEM YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD

MELODY THRASHER

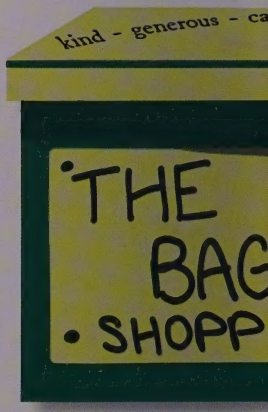
MOST LIKELY TO CHAIN HIMSELF TO A TREE IN PROTEST

LUKE GAYER

THOMAS HILL

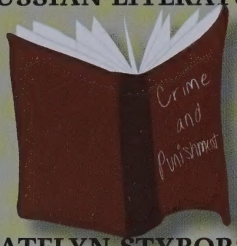
MOST LIKELY TO BECOME A POLITICAL PUNDIT

MOST LIKELY T



MR

MOST LIKELY TO MAJOR IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE



KATELYN STYBORSKI

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY THEORY SCANDAL

HANNAH SHAW

A huge thank you to the staffers who make up the Spartana. It has been a wonderful year filled with writing, designing and creating eight magnificient issues.

designed by
GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

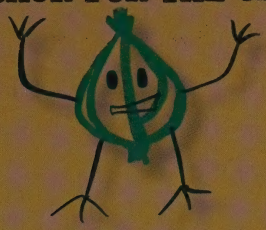
MOST LIKELY TO BE A GREAT PLANT MOM

ALESSIA PASSONI

MOST LIKELY TO MAKE A DAD JOKE IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES

SAM COLE

ANCHOR FOR THE ONION

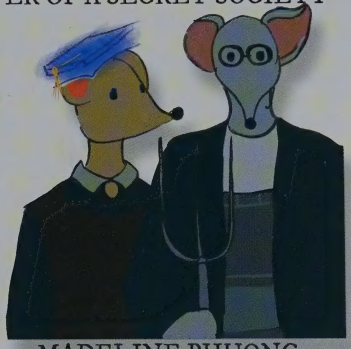


GANGA SUBRAMANIAN

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAK ER

ELAINA SCHILT

MOST LIKELY TO BE THE LEAD-ER OF A SECRET SOCIETY

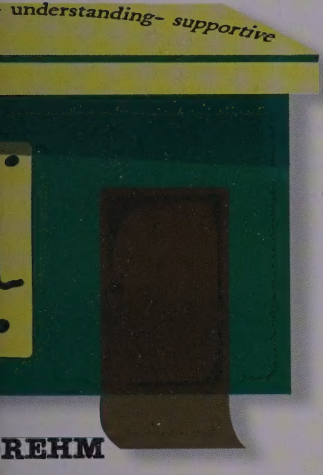


MADELINE PHUONG

MOST LIKELY TO RUN A SMALL BUSINESS

ISABELLA AMBROSE

WN A BAGEL SHOP



REHM

MOST LIKELY TO BE A ROCKSTAR

KATE HUTNER

MOST LIKELY TO BECOM A PINTEREST MODEL

KAIYA CRONKHITE

MOST LIKELY TO STAR IN A HIGH SCHOOL CLIQUE MOVIE

KEALYNN TUNKS

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME THE NEXT NEW AND IMPROVED VER-SION Of JIMMY FALLON

LUKE LAND

CLAIRE ELLIOTT

It would be impressive if I had a photographic memory—if I could call up facts and statistics like C-3PO, and cite that Mars is currently uninhabitable because it contains only x percent of water per square mile. However, I would not survive independently as C-3PO. While the lovable droid is certainly educated, as well as being a golden treasure chest of information and personality, he is not decisive.

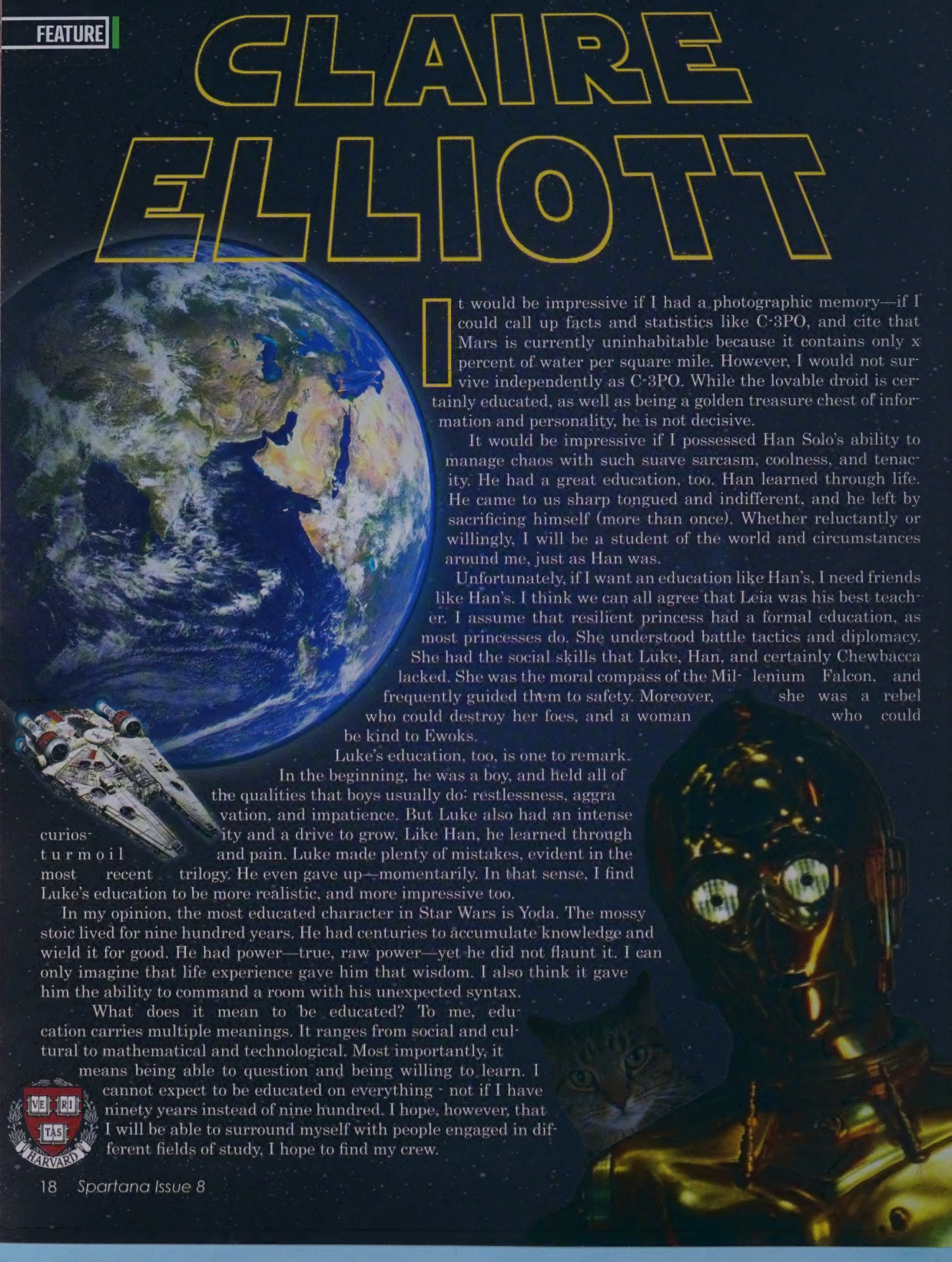
It would be impressive if I possessed Han Solo's ability to manage chaos with such suave sarcasm, coolness, and tenacity. He had a great education, too. Han learned through life. He came to us sharp tongued and indifferent, and he left by sacrificing himself (more than once). Whether reluctantly or willingly, I will be a student of the world and circumstances around me, just as Han was.

Unfortunately, if I want an education like Han's, I need friends like Han's. I think we can all agree that Leia was his best teacher. I assume that resilient princess had a formal education, as most princesses do. She understood battle tactics and diplomacy. She had the social skills that Luke, Han, and certainly Chewbacca lacked. She was the moral compass of the Millenium Falcon, and frequently guided them to safety. Moreover, she was a rebel who could destroy her foes, and a woman who could be kind to Ewoks.

Luke's education, too, is one to remark. In the beginning, he was a boy, and held all of the qualities that boys usually do: restlessness, aggravation, and impatience. But Luke also had an intense curiosity and a drive to grow. Like Han, he learned through turmoil and pain. Luke made plenty of mistakes, evident in the most recent trilogy. He even gave up—momentarily. In that sense, I find Luke's education to be more realistic, and more impressive too.

In my opinion, the most educated character in Star Wars is Yoda. The mossy stoic lived for nine hundred years. He had centuries to accumulate knowledge and wield it for good. He had power—true, raw power—yet he did not flaunt it. I can only imagine that life experience gave him that wisdom. I also think it gave him the ability to command a room with his unexpected syntax.

What does it mean to be educated? To me, education carries multiple meanings. It ranges from social and cultural to mathematical and technological. Most importantly, it means being able to question and being willing to learn. I cannot expect to be educated on everything - not if I have ninety years instead of nine hundred. I hope, however, that I will be able to surround myself with people engaged in different fields of study. I hope to find my crew.



KATE HUTNER

PINK TAX BAND

Looking back at my years at Homestead Highschool, I can confidently say that my highschool experience was an unexpected journey. Within my four years, I managed to go through a global pandemic, experience tragic construction and most importantly, meet lifelong friends. So, let's recap, shall we?

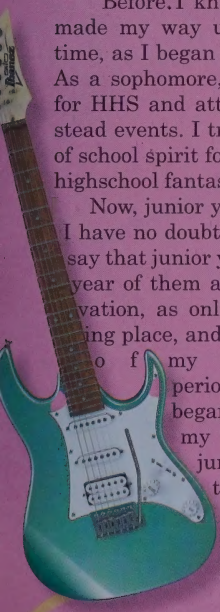
As a freshman, I had little time to ponder over who I was along with figuring out highschool, homework, and being a competitive dancer, which to a 14 year old, was a full time job. I was like every other freshman: running past the frightening and loud seniors in the front of the stands at the football games and complaining about my spot in the back of the bleachers.

Before I knew it though, I had made my way up a row within no time, as I began my sophomore year. As a sophomore, I played volleyball for HHS and attended many Homestead events. I truly gained the kind of school spirit found within so many highschool fantasy movies.

Now, junior year is another story. I have no doubt in my mind when I say that junior year was the hardest year of them all. I had little motivation, as online school was taking place, and I was in the middle of my "self-development" period, as I like to say. I began finding myself and my interests within my junior year, something that was chaotic and challenging.

And here we are, coming to an end with my senior year of highschool. I can confidently say I have found myself and my interests. I currently attend art school, work on my portfolio for college and in addition, I have formed my first band, Pink Tax. We are an all girl alternative/rock band, in which I play the bass guitar and sing in. I am beyond proud of where I have gone through my highschool career, and can not express how excited I am to see where I go within my next years of schooling.

Within my time at Homestead, I was able to develop myself into the person I am today. As I leave Homestead behind, I am beyond thankful for the teachers I have had, and the friends I have made. I will continue onto Indiana University in the fall, as I am sure many other seniors will. I plan to study something with a more creative attribute, whether that is Journalism, or Film, or something I have not thought of yet. Although I am unsure of my major, I know I will be minoring in music, and taking art classes frequently at IU. I plan to form a band at IU, most likely something similar to what I am currently doing.



March Madness this year was phenomenal, from Cinderella runs to the great games, and finally the upsets. The Final Four was phenomenal. Kansas vs Villanova and Duke vs North Carolina. Two great games, plus the national championship. Although it has been around a month since it ended, it's better late than never to review the Final Four.

By far, the biggest storyline during March Madness was Duke's head coach Mike Krzyzewski, better known as Coach K, heading into his final ever March Madness.

He coached for over 40 years at Duke University, leading the team to five national championships, 13 Final Four appearances and a combined total of 28 Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) regular-season and tournament championships. He is also the winningest coach in Division I men's basketball with 1,202 total wins.

North Carolina had a very strong year. The Tar Heels were led by the big man duo of Brady Manek and Armondo Bacot. Manek was a great shooter from three-point range and Bacot broke the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) record for double-doubles in a season with 30. A double-double is where you get double digits in two different stats. North Carolina had the dangerous backcourt duo of R.J. Davis and Caleb Love, both could score the ball whenever they needed.

North Carolina vs Duke was the best game of the Final Four, by far. It was the first time that Duke and North Carolina met in the NCAA Tournament, and being rivals, made it a historic matchup. North Carolina ended up routing Duke in an 81-77 victory, which sent them to their 3rd national championship since 2016. Sadly, Coach K lost the final game in his career to his rivals, but his legacy is greater than winning or losing. He had a historic career, nonetheless.

In the other matchup, it was Kansas vs. Villanova. Kansas was led by guard Ocha Agbaji. He was hot from three-point range all season, scoring over 40% of his shots. David McCormick held down the paint for the Jayhawks. He had 25 points against Villanova. Villanova was led by senior guard Collin Gillespie, who wasn't unfamiliar with the situation. In 2018, during his freshman year, he won a national championship with Villanova.

Collin was great all season, but couldn't push past the Jayhawks. Agbaji started the game off 6-6 from the

written an
LUK

BACKGROUND COURTESY OF jibennett.com

three-point line and had 21 total points, which helped Kansas win big, 81-65.

The national championship game was an instant classic this year: Kansas vs. North Carolina. Kansas was a heavy favorite, but North Carolina has proven that they can beat anyone in this tournament. The Kansas Jayhawks were down big at halftime, 25-40. It seemed like North Carolina was going to win it all. But in the second half, Kansas came out hot. They ended up scoring 47 points in the second half to win the game 72-69. This is Kansas's fourth national championship in program history. It was the biggest comeback in a national championship game and a well-deserved win for the Jayhawks.

This tournament has given plenty of questions to ask about many teams. The biggest one is Gonzaga. The Bulldogs were heavy favorites to win it all this year despite never winning a national championship and being one of the best teams in the nation. Why is that? They play in the West Coast Conference, which is a small conference with no real competition, besides Saint Mary's every few years. They market the many wins they get from a lack of competition to get big-name prospects. They then are overrated during the regular season, and when it comes to tournament time, they end up losing because they aren't used to playing great competition in close succession. It is time to start questioning Gonzaga and their "success."

Another team that needs to be talked about more is Houston, and this time it is for good reasons. In the past three NCAA Tournaments, they have at least made it to the Sweet Sixteen, and last year, they even made it to the Final Four. Houston is on the rise to be one of the top dogs, the only problem is not playing in a big conference. Don't be surprised to hear about Houston more often in the future, because they are legit.

The Final Four always gives great moments, and this year was no different. North Carolina fought to prove themselves, and Kansas finally won a national championship in a heroic fashion. This Final Four showed all the madness that it could, and that's what makes it so great.

PROJECT MK-ULTRA

written and designed by
MELODY THRASHER

The origins of this CIA project trace back to the Cold War era. Convinced that communists had found a way to control minds, the US government became fearful. In the early 1950s, the US government worried that U.S. prisoners of war in Korea were being brainwashed or controlled with various drugs and brainwashing techniques.

The CIA soon became highly invested with experimentation and research of mind control. In 1953, CIA director Allan Dulles approved the MK-Ultra project. The purpose of this project: to develop mind control techniques that could be used against enemies. Stephen Kinzer, journalist at the New York Times, described this operation as "the most sustained search in history for techniques of mind control."

Most experiments were conducted in American prisons and in various detention centers in the Philippines, Germany and Japan. Methods were cruel and life-threatening to patients who were unaware of what they were to be involved in. Experiments included the testing of drugs such as mescaline, MDMA (ecstasy), heroin, barbiturates, LSD, methamphetamine and psilocybin. In addition to the mind-altering drugs, methods of hypnosis, sensory deprivation and electroshock were used on the subjects, causing them to suffer extreme psychological torture.

Although all of the CIA documents were destroyed, there have been accounts of people who have spoken up about the way they or their family had been treated.

Esther Schrier with her husband and newborn, courtesy of CBC News

One example of this is Ester Schrier's story. Ester Schrier came to the hospital expecting to pay for the best medical treatment she could get. Due to a previous miscarriage and eventually becoming pregnant again, she and her husband wanted to ensure that she got the best psychiatric treatment possible.

Dr. Ewen Cameron had been paid $60,000 (equivalent to about $500,000 today) by the CIA due to their interest in his extensive research in mind control that were demonstrated in techniques of repetitive recorded messages, extreme sensory deprivation and drugs. Under Cameron's methods, Schrier underwent various procedures that permanently affected her ability to function in her day to day life.

> "Perhaps the most disturbing of all was the fact that the extent of experimentation on human subjects was unknown. The records of all these activities were destroyed in January 1973, at the instruction of then CIA Director Richard Helms. In spite of persistent inquiries by both the Health Subcommittee and the Intelligence Committee, no additional records or information were forthcoming. And no one—no single individual—could be found who remembered the details, not the Director of the CIA, who ordered the documents destroyed, not the official responsibile for the program, nor any of his associates."

Excerpt from US Government document: 95mkultra (3).

James Bulger's 1959 mugshot, courtesy of BBC News

After going through a process called "depatterning" she was mute, incontinent and had issues swallowing. According to Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) News, depatterning was a process Cameron believed was beneficial in breaking down the mind of the patient, so there was the opportunity for him to "work from a clean slate."

Drug induced comas, electroshock and listening to repetitive messages for up to 20 hours a day were techniques part of the depatterning process. By the end of her treatment, it was recorded that Schrier didn't know who her husband was. She had to completely relearn how to function, and said she felt helpless when it came to taking care of her newborn child.

James Bulger was another victim of MK-Ultra experiments. During his time in prison, he was given LSD, which was one of the CIA's main interests of research when it came to mind control. Prisoners were deemed as good testing subjects because they were willing to consent for extra recreational time.

After given the drug, Bulger said that he had completely lost his appetite, and that he would feel countless hours of paranoia. He also claimed to experience hallucinations of blood coming out of the walls and inanimate objects turning into animals.

Four years after the project had ended, the Senate met to discuss. The people within the hearing seemed to be upset with past government actions. Trust had been violated, and the Senate concluded that the most effective way to move on from a situation of this scale was to be accountable of what really happened (see excerpt from government document below).

This information is not provided to encourage distrust of the government, but simply to provide facts of previous occurrences. Unfortunately, it is the corrupt work of specific individuals that can negatively affect the CIA's reputation as a whole. There is much more information on the internet that was not discussed in this article, so treat this article as a stepping stone to learn more about MK-Ultra. Npr.org and CBC News are two great sources to read more about this topic.

> "The intelligence community of this Nation, which requires a shroud of secrecy in order to operate, has a very sacred trust from the American People. The CIA's program of human experimentation of the fifties and sixties violated that trust. It was violated again on the day the bulk of the agency's records were destroyed in 1973. It is violated each time a responsible official refuses to recollect the details of the program. The best safeguard against abuses in the future is a complete public accounting of the abuses of the past."

Excerpt from US Government document: 95mkultra (3).

How to Get the Perfect Sum

written and designed by
SAMUEL COLE

A guide to getting that perfect b

Hello readers, and welcome to *How to get the Perfect Summer Body: The Wrong Way.* I'm Sam, your new personal trainer. The weather is warming up, and summer is on its way, so get ready to have that figure you've been dreaming of since December. To help you get on track, I've created this incredibly and totally safe guide.

Diet

-Eat tons and tons of apple cores, specifically 30 per day. The cyanide helps get rid of rough and bumpy skin.
-Don't eat bananas—they're incredibly radioactive, eating as few as 400 bananas a day can kill you.
-Eat raw potatoes, as soon as they come out of the ground. The gasses that build up in the potatoes can help strengthen your core.
-Eat loads of raw rice, since the bacteria spores contained in the rice will provide healthy, glowing skin.
-Put polyalphaolefin tablets in your coffee in the morning, which helps with weight loss.
-Large amounts of frozen dihydrogen monoxide also help with weight loss.
-Eat bricks.
-Drink Coca-Cola from the 1890s. Don't pay attention to the fact that cocaine is on the label. 1890s Coke is an excellent hair loss medication.
-Eat 1 Wolfsbane plant per day, and make sure you eat the entire plant. Wolfsbane is a great way to keep your immune system strong.
-Spider lilies are also good for you, and have the same benefits as wolfsbane.

Exercise

-Don't.
-Exercise will fatigue you.
-Fatigue makes you weak.
-Weakness is the grip that everyone around you will use to pull you down.
-Trust no one.
-Neck exercises are incredibly important for getting that perfect beach body.
-Be scared.

mer Body: The Wrong Way

ch bod, one wrong step at a time.

Exercise Continued

-Reject society.
-Become monkey.
-*monkey noises*
-Make sure to take large amounts of totally legal steroids whilst exercising to make sure you have the energy to keep going.
-*more monkey noises*

Lifestyle

-Practice bloodletting. This will help get rid of all those pesky diseases you've been saving up.
-Don't use sunscreen—ultraviolet rays are incredibly good for acne.
-Take a lot of pictures of yourself, and post them on social media. People absolutely love to see your wonderfully gorgeous face 17 times a day.
-Inspirational quotes as captions are optional but recommended.
-Make sure to use toothpaste that contains radium. Don't mind the dim green glow of the stuff, just imagine how clean your teeth will be.
-Find a reason to keep living.
-If at any time during your journey, you get a bad cough, try potassium chloride-laced cough syrup. Big media has inflated the effects of the chemical, saying that "it's literally the chemical used in lethal injections". In reality, it is incredibly good for you, and can help remove any cough you might have.
-Bathe once a week. Any kind of bacteria or uncleanliness you obtain during your journey will help you to remain healthy.
-If your hair keeps bothering you, don't spend time with a hair tie, just shave the majority of it off.
-One way to increase your self esteem and social popularity is to shave various body hair into designs and patterns.

And that should be about it, readers, *How to get the Perfect Summer Body, the Wrong Way.* It is incredibly important to remember that this article is entirely satirical, and most of, if not all of the methods, treatments, and advice in this article can and will kill you.

America's National Treasure: The Hallmark Channel

written and designed by
HANNAH SHAW

Hallmark movies are a fascinating sub-section of the entertainment world. With worn-out plot lines and recycled characters, these movies have made their mark as a staple for middle-aged women. Within the first ten minutes of a Hallmark channel original, you can more often than not guess how it ends. That being said, there are so many of them. An unending pit of hunky single fathers and hasty marriage proposals. This begs the question: How on earth could this happen? Who allowed Hallmark to do this? Perhaps there is a hidden charm in these movies, and I intend to find it.

A Christmas Prince

Amber, an enthusiastic New York journalist with the emotional depth of a tomato, gets her first real writing assignment: to travel to Aldovia and observe the royal family. King Richard recently died, and the country is patiently waiting for Prince Richard to step up to the plate. Unfortunately for Aldovia, the prince is an "international playboy" also known as "Your Royal Hotness" and prefers to spend his time with women on beaches instead of running a country. Who would've thought?

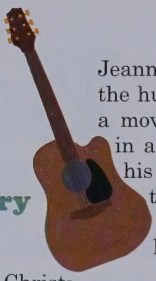
After the Prince neglects to show up to his own press conference, Amber decides to take matters into her own hands. In true journalistic fashion, she sneaks into the palace and poses as teenage princess Emily's American tutor. The only thing Emily learns for the next week or so is hyperbole and whatever else people learn in schools for journalism, as Amber is a one-trick-pony in the academic sense. That doesn't really matter though, as she spends the majority of their tutoring time taking not-so-subtle pictures of the prince and sneaking out of the palace with Emily.

The rest of the movie is filler of Amber discovering the prince's true self: a whiny, wealthy man. Numerous times throughout the movie, one of the royals says something along the lines of "you probably think I'm some poor rich girl." Despite this, she finds herself falling for him and on him in a non-fatal tobogganing accident.

To summarize the conclusion of this movie: Simon, Prince Richard's evil cousin, wants to take Richard's place. Amber finds the prince's adoption certificate and decides to take it and then leave it in plain sight. Simon finds this and tries to stop Richard's coronation but just in the nick of time, Amber finds a decree inside of an acorn-shaped ornament stating that Richard can be king even though he's adopted. Then, the prince proposes to her after less than a week of knowing her. She says yes.

This movie was shockingly bad and truly hard to watch. Although the logistics of royal decrees in Aldovia were not specified, specifically those kept in acorn Christmas ornaments, surely you can't just write something on a piece of paper and then make it the law.

Images courtesy of Netflix and Hannah Shaw



A Very Country Christmas

In an intense contrast to "A Christmas Prince", "A Very Country Christmas" takes place in a small town. Zane Gunther, an unfathomably popular country music star, finds himself less than pleased with his career. Millions of dollars and thousands of adoring fans are not enough to help Zane sleep at night. Instead, he flees a sold-out concert to go back to his favorite suburban town.

Meanwhile, Jeannette, a struggling single mom, is working as an interior designer for Zane. She shatters a vase in his house while staging it and finds herself confronted by a fresh out of the shower half-naked man who, unbeknownst to her, is the Zane Gunther. This marks the start of a meaningful relationship.

As time goes on, the two find themselves working together for a mutual friend named Jolene to help her set up some sort of Christmas show. It is highly possible that the specifics of this show were mentioned in the first ten minutes, but I blocked it out, so "Christmas show" is the best I can do. Jeannette's daughter takes a liking to the hunky cowboy after he rents out a movie theatre and somehow puts in a gaming system. This was not his house, it was an actual movie theatre. Again, questionable logistics, but sometimes you just have to let stuff like that go.

The pair almost kiss a minimum of five times, each time more painful to watch than the last. Eventually, the press finds out that Zane is hanging out in the suburbs with some random blonde woman and, like moths to light, they harass the two in their driveway. This concludes with Zane being forced to leave and go back to his sad life of swimming in wealth and meeting cute girls. Jeanette tells him she is giving up on them, which turns him into the most emo cowboy alive.

Eventually, Zane's agent/bodyguard/his job title was unclear, who also happens to be his brother, decides he cannot stand to see him like this anymore. They return to the tiny town and Zane sings in the Christmas show while confessing his love to Jeannette. Then they all, presumably, live happily ever after.

Where this movie really shines is the random side characters that it could really do without. A female cop appears every now and again to remind the audience that she is in love with Zane and a loser named Tom does the same to remind us that he is in love with Jeannette. The brother's boss is a pretentious weirdo who has a manicurist named something like Olga and that is the only information given on her character.

Write your own!

Title: A _____ _____.
(adjective) (holiday)

_____ is tired of her boring life in _____. Luckily for her _____ a retired
(women's name) (rural state) (man's name)

_____ with a love for _____ moves into the house next door. Although weary of the stranger at first,
(job) (plural noun)

she discovers his secret passion for _____ that shows her a new side to him she never thought she'd see. Unfortunately, his _____ past makes it hard for him to commit. They struggle through each other's complicated
(other plural noun) (adjective)

histories and fall in love while they're at it. However, when _____, her _____ ex boyfriend, turns up
(other man's name) (adjective)

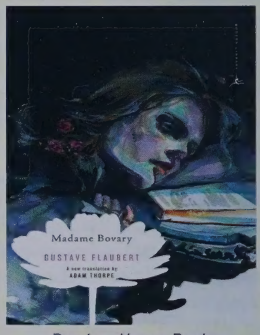
on her doorstep she is forced to make a choice between the two men. They do not make this easy, participating in frequent emotionally charged _____ competitions to win her heart. Will she follow her head or her heart?
(verb ending in -ing)

(Spoiler Free) A^AP Lit Book Ranking

written and designed by
GAIA SPLENDORE

1. Madame Bovary

"Madame Bovary" is an underrated classic in the wide scope of literature. Flaubert does a stellar job of taking a simple premise, a bored French housewife, and turning it into a captivating story with a Keeping Up with the Kardashians level of drama. Hate or love the main character, Emma, you can't help but relate to her. Most people may not agree with me in saying that it's the best, but I think it does an amazing job of balancing an interesting story, thoughtful commentary and three-dimensional characters.



Random House Books

2. A Streetcar Named Desire

Summer reading assignments often dampen the "fun in the sun" mentality of summer, but "A Streetcar Named Desire" is incredibly worth it.

"It was my favorite play to read in AP Lit because I was really intrigued by the plot and also the discussions we had in class," not to mention the iconic scene where "Stanley yells, 'STELLAAAA'" says Stella Boothman (11).

This play is wonderfully written and creates complex, deeply sad characters that entice you to know more about them. Every single line and stage direction is incredibly purposeful, all tying together in the end to effectively portray its message. No part of the play seems unnecessary, and every single element works in harmony. The powerful ending forces the reader to stop and reflect on the current world we live in and warns about the possibility that it may never change.

3. Their Eyes Were Watching God

One of "Their Eyes Were Watching God's" most impressive features is its distinct and confident voice. This novel offers an insightful look into Southern Black culture in the early 20th century with memorable characters. Hurston uses a Southern dialect that deepens the characters' identities and experiences interlaced with sophisticated prose through a narrator. The novel follows Janie as she searches for love and her own sense of self, a coming of age story with a relatable premise that shows that it's alright to make mistakes and how to grow from them.

4. Moby-Dick

"Moby-Dick" offers insightful commentary on the consumer culture of the world and a plethora of other topics like the quest for knowledge of the unknown and the limits of language, but the best part is easily being able to understand so many references in pop culture?

"Moby-Dick" truly does change a person's entire world view and presents incredibly thoughtful questions that it will take an entire person's life to answer. However, my one qualm is that Herman Melville simply needed a sterner editor. I love this book but some of the chapters, like the multiple pages being dedicated to massaging whale oil, are just not necessary (no matter what Mellvile thinks) and weighs down the novel.

5. Ceremony

"Ceremony" is a rather depressing novel, following a PTSD ridden Native American trying to navigate life after WWII, and is incredibly impactful. What really elevates this novel is the unique writing style. "I really like the artistic blend of poetry and regular run of the mill prose," says Michelle Obioma (11), a student whose favorite AP book is Ceremony. The novel intertwines Native American folktales, poems and modern day prose, which results in an unique and unforgettable novel.

6. Waiting for Godot

Need to tell an acquaintance what your favorite play is and you want to sound well-read and just pretentious enough? Well "Waiting for Godot" is perfect for you! The plot of the play is absurd and the themes have the perfect amount of complexity to impress anyone. The play is comprised of two characters who just wait for the entire play so the plot is nothing to write home about, but the message and themes this play outlines is what really makes it shine. To be honest, I don't think I was depressed enough while reading to fully appreciate what this play has to say.

7. Wuthering Heights

I see how people can really love "Wuthering Heights." From its incredibly memorable characters to suspenseful plot. It's a great read, just not really for me. The best part of the novel is the incredible psychology of the characters and how complex and disturbing just about every character is.

Healthcliff and Cathy will go down in the history books and if this novel is anything, it's a guide on how not to behave in relationships. The characters really make this novel, offering perspectives of evil. Unlike most novels of its time, these characters do not mean to be socially acceptable and fit a norm; rather, they are purely an unadulterated version of themselves.

8. The Road

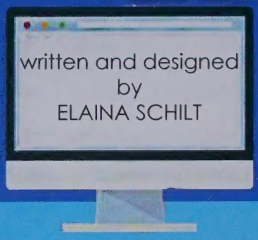
You know how "A Streetcar Named Desire" was worth it to ruin a no work summer? Well The Road was not. "The Road" was another thought provoking novel that included commentary on retaining humanity in an apocalyptic world.

"While many post-apocalyptic stories put a focus on why the world is the way it is, McCarthy rather zooms in on what it is to be human" says Alejandro Tinnel (11), a "The Road" apologist. My issue with it was that it was so bleak and had no real moment of celebration that the hard hitting, depressing moments fell flat because they just blended in with the rest of the book. My favorite aspect of the novel was how it broke writing norms. Character names? Who needs them. Quotation marks? Unnecessary. Chapters? Boring.

9. King Lear

Making the bottom of my list, I did not like "King Lear." I think the best way to describe it is that, you know how "A Streetcar Named Desire" has incredible writing that neatly presents its themes and ideas, wrapping them up concisely at the end? Well "King Lear" does the opposite of that. Everything jumps around and I get what it's trying to say, I just don't want to listen.

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN



Americans today lean further to the left or right than ever before, making for an increasingly polarized society.

What is to blame for this increasing divide among Americans? While there are many factors responsible, one of the most prominent is the media.

The first American newspapers were created during colonial times. These early newspapers largely contributed to the anti-British sentiment that sparked the American Revolution. Following the American victory, freedom of the press was included in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

Through the early to mid twentieth century, newspapers remained the most common way for Americans to receive their news. This all changed with the introduction of the radio to the American public, as well as the television in the mid-twentieth century.

According to The American Century, around 10 million American households owned television sets in 1951. The earliest news broadcasts were 10 to 15 minute programs by American networks like NBC, CBS and ABC. Because of their length and weekly occurrences, the anchors on these programs reported the essential information about only the most important events.

Increased interest and investment in politics accompanied the emergence of televised news programs. Candidates running for office began to create campaign advertisements that were shown on television in front of millions of viewers. In 1960, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon went head to head during the first televised presidential debate in American history.

For most of history, media outlets were simply referred to as "the press." It wasn't until the early 1970s that President Nixon and his White House staff began referring to journalists as "the media." The use of this new and more connotatively negative name stemmed from Nixon's personal distrust of the media, a feeling that many more Americans would share in the future.

Today, the American people's skepticism regarding the media has only increased. According to a Gallup poll taken last year, only 36 percent of Americans trust the media to report the news "fully, accurately, and fairly."

This number has been decreasing steadily since the 1970s, and it hit the lowest ever recorded in 2016 at just 34 percent.

Why is this? Why don't Americans have faith in the press anymore?

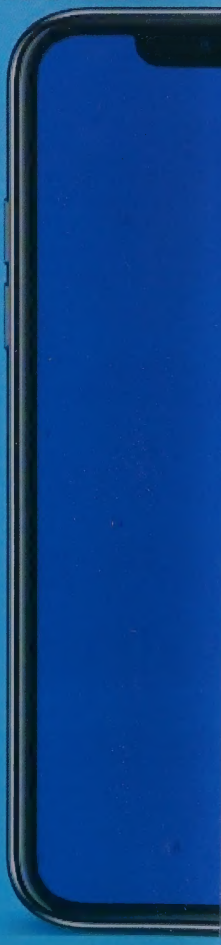
Well, I would argue that it's because of the increasingly opinionated nature of most news programs and networks.

While being able to speak your opinion as a journalist is a key component of a free society, it is only acceptable to do so if a disclaimer is explicitly stated. If media outlets fail to do this and instead present authors' or anchors' opinions as fact, the mistrust and eventual loss of readers will inevitably follow.

For example, here at the Spartana, all articles in which the author expresses his or her personal judgement, like in this one, must be labeled as such with the "opinion" tag.

While there are smaller outlets that admit an ideological preference, many of today's large mainstream media corporations do not do this, continuing their claims of fair and unbiased reporting, despite evidence supporting the contrary. It seems as though the distinction between unbiased, factual news reporting and opinion-based, analytical commentating has been blurred. Media networks are becoming more partisan and opinionated, focusing on the anchor's or author's personal values and beliefs rather than simply telling the who, what, when, where and why of current events.

The principle of objectivity and nonpartisanship in journalism dates back to the early decades of the twentieth century when readers really began to notice bias in newspapers.



Graphics from Canva

"The issue is not what various journalists or news organizations' editorial views are. The issue is the transformation of news reporting into ideological spin, along with self-serving taboos and outright fraud."
- Thomas Sowell

The American Press Institute states that "objectivity called for journalists to develop a consistent method of testing information... so that personal and cultural biases would not undermine the accuracy of their work."

Most Americans have one or two sources that they get information from. These are likely to be sources that this person trusts and agrees with. Consumers who do this are only hearing what they want to hear. The absence of differing opinions in many Americans' regularly consumed media only makes for a more polarized society. If you continue to hear over and over again what you already believe, your chances of understanding the opposition's point of view only becomes slimmer.

In addition to major news networks, social media also fuels division and polarization in our society. It all comes down to the reason these companies exist in the first place: to make money.

Because social media platforms make money through advertising, they want to keep their users engaged for as long as possible. To do this, they use algorithms that are designed to feed us addictive content that will provoke an emotional response. These companies have found anger to be the emotion that keeps users engaged, so they try to tailor users' feeds to include content that will outrage them.

Consequently, the majority of the content that users see while on social media platforms just reinforces their beliefs, creating a metaphorical echo chamber. The original meaning of an echo chamber was a room used by artists in a recording studio.

However, today's echo chambers are environments where people only see and hear information that reinforces their own beliefs. This has the potential to gradually radicalize people's political views as well as fuel their hatred for others with differing beliefs.

Another negative effect that social media has on our society is the shortening of attention spans. According to a study done by Microsoft, the average adult's attention span was just 8 seconds in 2015, down from 12 seconds in 2000. While four seconds over 15 years may not seem like a large change and shorter attention spans may not seem like a big deal, there is most definitely reason for concern.

People are more than willing to post, share, or watch ten seconds of their favorite activist reaffirming their beliefs or have a Twitter argument with a stranger, but how many would be willing to have an actual conversation with the goal of reaching a resolution that is agreed upon by all sides?

Social media has not only had a negative impact on the amount of productive political discourse, but they have also severed ties between friends with whom they disagree. Again from Pew Research, nearly twenty percent of Americans have dropped someone they were friends with because of differing political beliefs. This polarization will and has already begun to create political tribalism, which is when one group behaves discriminatorily or hatefully towards members of opposing groups in pursuit of self-preservation.

To prevent this from continuing, our nation's news outlets need to return to providing the news in a fair and accurate manner. In order to do this, news outlets need to declare their biases. If a source favors one ideology or another, they need to admit it to their readers.

While changing the ways of major corporations is a bit beyond our control as students, we can still work to curb this media-induced division. We must avoid heated online arguments that have the tendency to end harshly and without a resolution, leaving both sides frustrated.

If our media will not do its duty to provide us with both sides of an issue, then we must seek it out ourselves by having productive and respectful conversations with each other, especially with those who disagree with us.

MODERN FEMINISM

written and designed by
KEALYNN TUNKS

Feminism has been prevalent in our society ever since the Seneca Falls Convention. According to History.com, "The Seneca Falls Convention was the first women's rights convention in the United States. Held in July 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, the meeting launched the women's suffrage movement." This event was recognized as a milestone in women's rights. Over 300 women showed up on the first day, a huge stride for the pressing issue they were about to face head-on.

Susan B. Anthony was one of the main activists of the women's rights movement. She and her counterparts would lobby the government and seek out officials to influence. Betty Friedan was another influential activist. She was the author of "The Feminine Mystique" which "broke new ground by exploring the idea of women finding personal fulfillment outside of their traditional roles" (History.com Editors).

The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. Although some women gained the right to vote, there were still laws preventing women of color from voting. It would take up to 40 years for all women to be able to vote.

During World War II, many of the men in the workforce were drafted into war, leaving women to provide for their families. They stepped into men's shoes and took up jobs in factories while also single-handedly taking care of their children; thus catapulting women into the workforce. At work, men often looked down on women, making them feel inferior. This issue is still prevalent in society today.

Things were ultimately looking up for women at this time, and advancing fast, but there is no sign that women and men will be completely equal in the foreseeable future. The wage gap, for instance, still affects almost every woman in the workforce, especially women of color. According to PayScale, women earn 72 cents for every dollar that men make, and women of color get even less than that. Although 18 cents might not sound like that big of a loss, it gives men a significant financial boost. A great example of the pay difference between men and women is modeled primarily in sports.

In the NBA, men make about $8 million a year while women make about $75,000. "Men's basketball generally has a larger audience," said Sydney Holmes (11). "Even though men's sports are getting more viewership, that doesn't mean all the money through mainstream sports companies has to go to the men in the field... If people could choose between men's and women's basketball, they would choose men's; but they are broadcasting these events at the exact same time, which gives women's basketball a major disadvantage." Media is another large factor as to

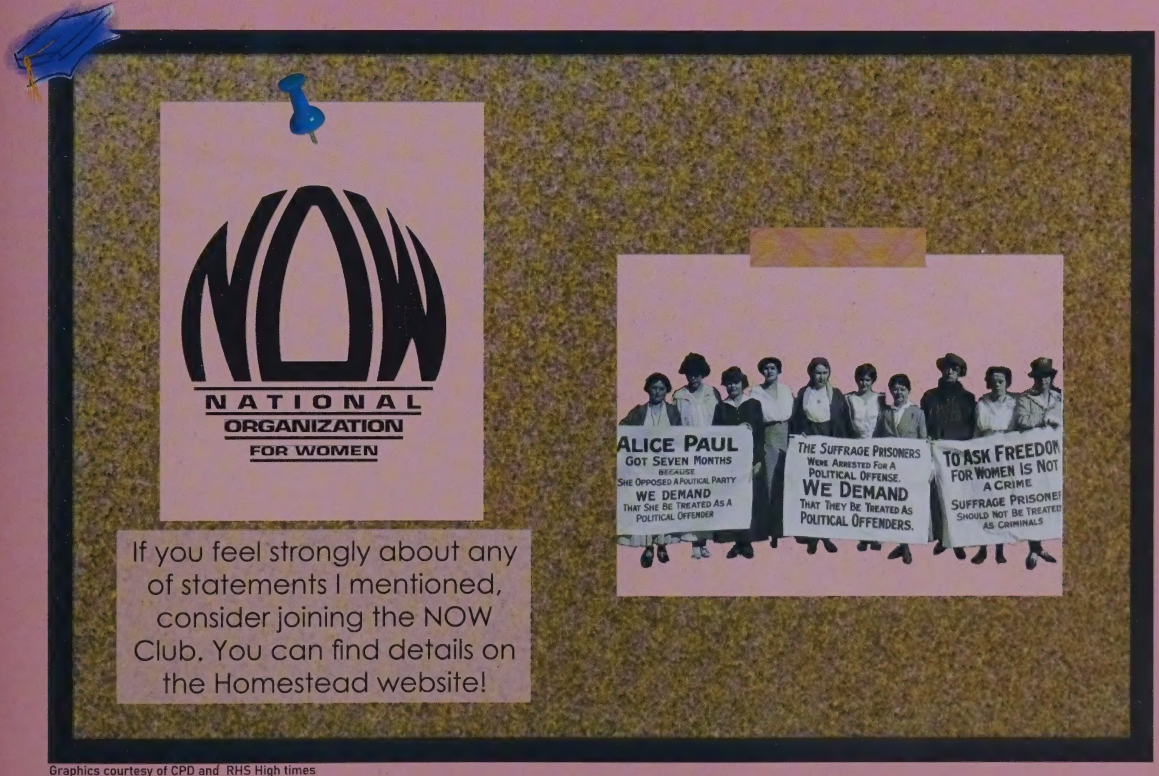
Graphics courtesy of CUNA

why men's basketball gets more attention than women's. Think about it, have you ever seen a major news network casually talking about women's basketball? There's absolutely no attention brought to it, which is one of the main reasons why it's getting less viewership. There's no expectation for women's basketball? There's absolutely no attention brought to it, which is one of the main reasons why it's getting less viewership. There's no expectation for women's basketball to grow in publicity overnight, but must they get paid so little for doing the same thing the men's teams are?

Modern Feminism is a topic that is deemed very controversial. Elise Peckinpaugh (11) defines feminism as "an effort to try and have equality for all female-identifying people." She said that "many modern feminists seek to make sure that all genders are treated fairly by society in all aspects of life." A common misconception people have is that feminism has turned into women wanting more superiority over men. This is understandable as in every political party, there will be radicals who want the most extreme, but most feminists strive for equalism, not superiority.

Peckinpaugh states, "I know a lot of people that joke that 'all men are trash,' which is clearly an unfair statement, but I think that it's important to recognize that feminism is meant to be uplifting women to be treated equally and not bring men down." Women often get looked down upon and shamed for what they do, and even for minute things such as what they wear. Most people would argue that the term 'feminism' wasn't made to belittle anyone who isn't a female.

While 'conversing' with Peckinpaugh, she made some great points that many women can relate to, "I think a lot of people forget that women have been placed in a sort of box and have been forced to try and live with this power struggle their whole lives... A lot of people also don't see the harm in little girls being forced to accept that the boy throwing rocks at her on the playground likes her. Most people also know that women have to be careful walking down a street alone even in broad daylight, and I think it's ridiculous that this is a situation that people have just accepted at this point. Half of the population walks down the street scared of those around them, terrified that at any moment they're going to be cat-called, groped, or stalked." Most people don't necessarily realize that this is a serious issue that women face. Nobody should be afraid to walk down the street alone.



Graphics courtesy of CPD and RHS High times

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION & REPRESENTATION: Is There A Double Standard?

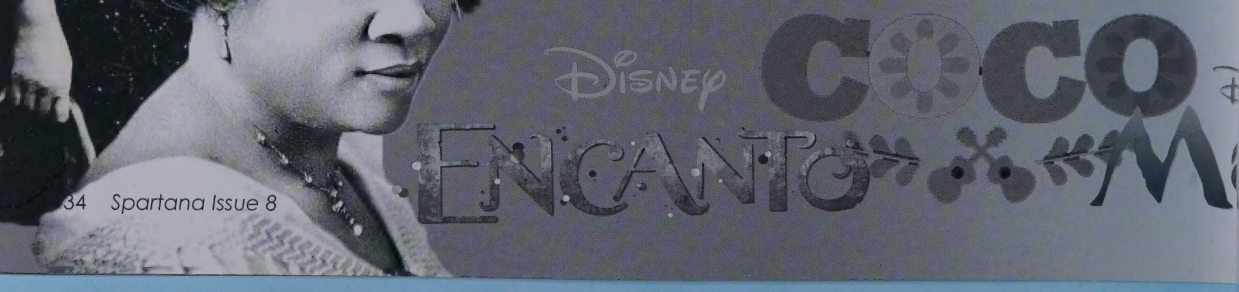
written and designed by
THOMAS HILL

I was recently perusing the news sites of other high school newspapers when I came upon a few articles in the Carmel HiLite that were related to diversity and representation in media. We often hear about the need for representation. Every mainstream industry from Hollywood to book publishers is concerned with promoting diversity and being "inclusive." At face value, this seems great. The world is a diverse place and there should be accurate, age-appropriate representation of the world in what we see. However, I have become concerned with a recent media trend: taking classic pieces of European and American culture and modifying them to make them more racially and ethnically diverse, often at the expense of the original work.

Now, I know that this statement is rather controversial: how dare I insinuate that white cultures are being appropriated? But the truth is that white culture is being taken advantage of in a way that would never be allowed for any nonwhite culture. Take, for example, Amazon Prime's upcoming series "The Rings of Power," a prequel to the Lord of the Rings. In the original work (the source material), J.R.R. Tolkien explicitly details the world of Middle-Earth, designating that certain groups of people are white and certain groups of people are nonwhite. This is intentional on his part, as Middle-Earth supposed to Europe prior to the Age of Man. Tolkien saw a lack of European mythology on par with the rich mythologies of Africa, Asia and the rest of the world, so he created the Lord of the Rings to fill that void. In the new series, however, there has been an introduction of both a Black elf and a Black dwarf. These races are explicitly white in the original work, so why is there a need to change their race, especially when there are groups of people that are already designated to be nonwhite in Middle-Earth? Again, it's not like there aren't any people of color in Tolkien's world, it's just that he has designated certain groups (with their own distinct cultures) to be nonwhite and others to be white.

I can already hear people preparing to call me racist, but let's reverse the situation for a moment. What if 2018's Black Panther had decided to cast Okoye, Shuri, and other Wakandans with white actors and actresses? There would be universal outrage and condemnation of Marvel, and rightfully so. These characters are intentionally black—it's how they were originally created and a huge part of the reason that they're so impactful. This being said, I don't understand why it's okay to do the same thing to a piece of European literature like Lord of the Rings. We know that it would be wrong to change the race of characters from Black Panther, so why can't we keep that same standard when it comes to Lord of the Rings?

Let's continue this thought process concerning the recently released series "Anne Boleyn" from AMC. In the series, Anne Boleyn is played by a Black actress, despite being a white woman. This is a historical figure being portrayed as a different race. Would this be acceptable if AMC had released a series about Madame CJ Walker and cast a white actress to play her? Absolutely not! There would be universal outrage at the ridiculousness of casting a white actress to play a Black woman. Once again, why don't we keep that standard when the roles are reversed? Another great example of this is "Hamilton: An American Musical," which takes historically white figures and suggests that they be played by actors and



actresses of color (except for the villain King George III, who remains white). Can you imagine the reaction if a Martin Luther King, Jr. musical based on the Civil Rights Movement was created with a cast of allwhite actors and actresses? Yet another instance that would result in justified outrage, but we lose this energy when the situation is the other way around.

This desire to reframe European and American history and culture through the lens of other races often comes from a genuinely good place. There's nothing wrong with representing different races, ethnicities and cultures in mainstream culture. In fact, I'd argue that it's good for children to be exposed to fiction that is just as diverse and unique as the real world. But this should not be accomplished by casting nonwhite actors or actresses as historically white characters or modifying stories to race-swap characters. Instead, we should be giving voice to stories that feature historical figures who actually were nonwhite, especially since there are so many untold stories about nonwhite figures in American and world history. We should also be giving voice to more original stories like Black Panther that were created specifically to bring nonwhite characters front and center. We are passing up the opportunity for more nonwhite voices to be uplifted, choosing instead to insert nonwhite characters into white culture.

For example, there are numerous African, Aboriginal and Asian legends, fables and mythologies that have never been explored on screen. Rather than taking European fairy tales and shifting them to feature nonwhite characters, we should be giving these amazing stories an opportunity to be told. It's certainly a profitable strategy: look at movies like "Coco" and "Encanto" that are inspired by nonwhite cultures and tell authentic stories. They have outperformed movies like the newest Cinderella, which chose to insert nonwhite actors into a European-set fairy tale. It actually devalues nonwhite cultures by insisting that they be ignored in favor of "diversifying" originally European-set works or pieces of history. Why make a historical drama starring a Black Anne Boleyn instead of one starring Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawaii, whose story is as interesting, if not more interesting than Anne Boleyn's? We need to move away from just casting or creating nonwhite characters and move towards featuring a wider range of culturally diverse stories.

We live in a day and age where we have an opportunity to tell the best stories available, regardless of the races or ethnicities of the characters in them. With all the different movie companies and streaming platforms looking for content, there's no reason why we can't have real representation without resorting to the appropriation or modification of white cultures. We can tell stories that stay true to their original historical and creative visions while having representation of all races and ethnicities on screen. Let's move away from cultural disrespect and shift our focus to creating an industry that gives equal credence and respect to all cultures, regardless of their origin.

Check out our past issues at hhsspartana.com!